RAGE ON AMERICA'S STREETS

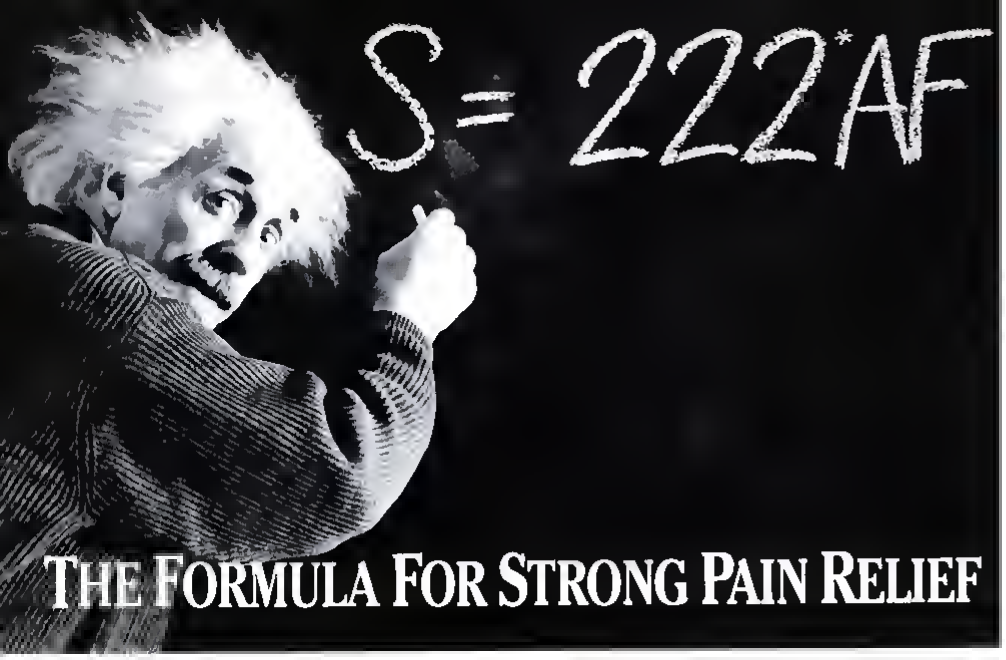
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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE MAY 11 1992 VOL 105 NO 19

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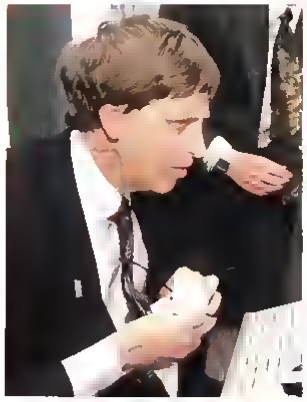
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COVER PHOTO OF WILLIAM GATES BY ERIN ELDER/MACLEAN'S

COVER

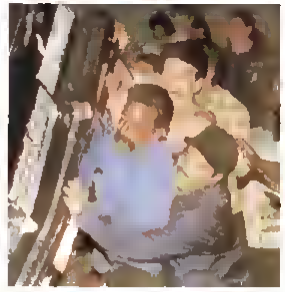
GENIUS AT WORK

Microsoft Corp.'s software is used in 90 per cent of the world's computers. Yearly sales are $2.1 billion, and founder William Gates, with $7.3 billion in company stock, is America's richest man at only 36. But now he is battling his former partner, IBM, and even his admirers wonder if he is too smart for his own good. The brash computer hacker, however, is determined to prevail. — 34

WORLD

STREETS OF HATE

The acquittal of four police officers in the beating of a black motorist triggered a horrible orgy of death, arson and looting in Los Angeles. As the rioting turned other cities into armed camps, Americans once again exposed their racial divisions and showed just how thin the line is between law and disorder. — 20



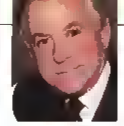


SHOW BUSINESS

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Montreal's National Circus School has become a power in circus-arts training by capturing the imaginations of young people around the world. Without it, the Cirque du Soleil would not have grown from a humble troupe of street performers into an internationally acclaimed enterprise. — 52

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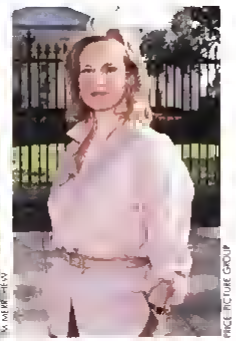
White, Black And Blood

Between 1861 and 1865, America lost more of its sons in the Civil War than in all the other wars that the country fought before or since. The War Between the States began as a struggle by the North to prevent secession by the South. But after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, essentially abolishing slavery, it became in large part a war about race. Despite the North's decisive victory, only the brightest, most ambitious and gifted blacks have ever been accepted into mainstream white society. And as last week's riots in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta and other cities demonstrated, distrust—and, at some levels, hatred—between blacks and whites is a fundamental fact of life in modern America. The immediate cause of the riots was the acquittal, by a Los Angeles jury that had no black members, of four white police officers in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King. But the real causes for the violent outbursts are far more profound and intractable.

White society has never been prepared to throw open the doors of power to blacks generally, or to provide the resources needed to give blacks equal opportunities in the fields of education, job training and family support. Canada's record has been equally ignoble, although the problem has not been as high-profile because the proportion of blacks is so much smaller than in the United States. The overall result, particularly in America, has been the creation of a permanent black underclass, seething with frustration and impotent rage, and looking into a future without promise.

The most tragic aspect of last week's violence and the sporadic riots that have existed since the 1960s is that there are no apparent solutions. None. The only hope, and it is admittedly a frail one, is that the shock of the rioting might galvanize both white and black leaders into launching a massive inquiry into the causes of racism and implementing broadly accepted approaches to reducing it in the decades ahead.





PRICE PICTURE GROUP

Maclean's *Washington correspondents Hilary Mackenzie (left) and Marci McDonald outbursts*

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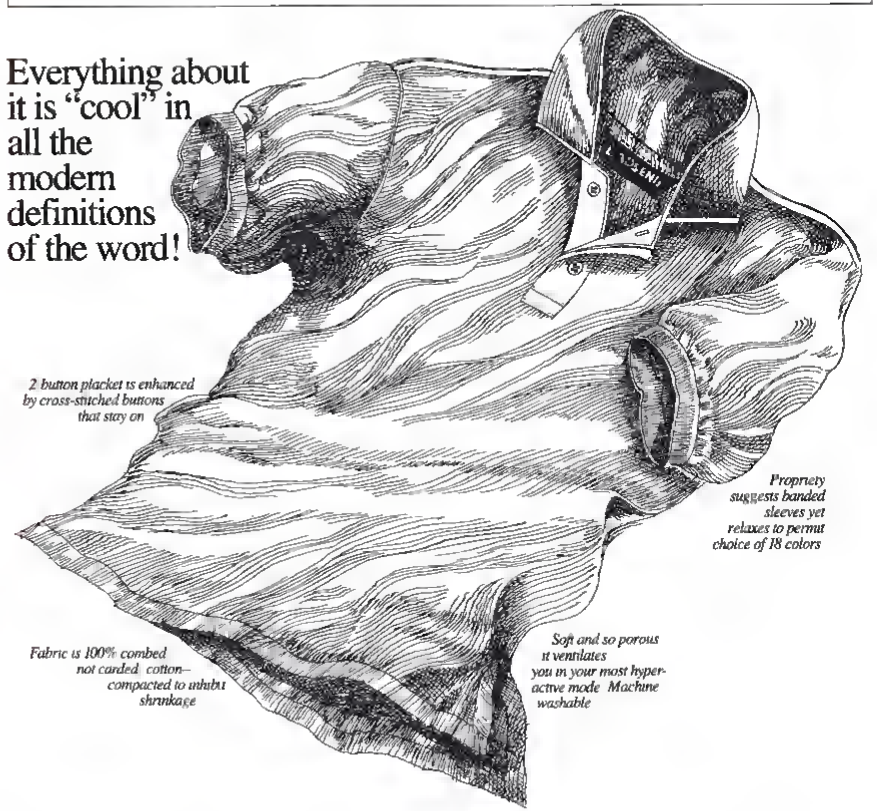
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LETTERS

The politics of AIDS

I was relieved by *Maclean's* breakthrough in revealing the truth that the spread of AIDS in North America is an overwhelmingly gay phenomenon ("A deadly debate," Health, April 27). Although the medical research community has known this for years, there appeared to be a conspiracy of misinformation. While AIDS produces only a fraction of the hospital costs that result from cancer and injuries, it receives a higher amount in research funds. The medical community has changed its vocabulary, using such terms as "safer sex" to replace the myth of safe sex by the mere use of a condom. It is, as has been espoused for centuries, best for sex to be enjoyed exclusively in marriage. We live in a time when to comment on the facts of "alternative lifestyles" is seen as an attack on a minority. This view not only breeds unnecessary animosity, but blinds us to problems that these lifestyles produce for society.

Robert H. Foerger
Edmonton

I found "A deadly debate" very disturbing. You write that "a growing number of critics" do not trust the World Health Organization's quarterly report figures for AIDS. Health economist Joel Hay claims that WHO has "a vested interest in printing the bleakest picture possible." Is he suggesting that WHO is fudging estimates of this pandemic to justify its budget? Is he serious? You report that in Canada *only* 4.3 per cent of AIDS deaths have resulted from heterosexual activity. That represents about 148 *real* people. What is the message? Are they not important because their numbers are so few? It is a given in this country that gays and drug users represent the greatest reservoir of infection. What has changed is that a growing number of heterosexual cases are appearing; we need only look at the situation in Africa to know that AIDS can spread rapidly through the heterosexual population. I am fed up with smug economists and journalists challenging the attempts of so-called activists to gain funding for the research and prevention of AIDS. I want a cure for AIDS and I want it as soon as possible. Articles like yours do a disservice to everyone who is or has been dealing with this disease.

Robert A. Robinet,
Toronto

Again, or never more?

How ironic that your photograph for "Between life and death" (Cover, April 20) is of a cross, yet you neglect to mention the greatest "near-death experience" ever recorded: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His words are more worthy of contemplation than those of a broadcaster who learned the computer from a celestial Albert Einstein. I will stake my future on the one who not only said, but proved, that "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

James A. Dewar,
Minister, Sherwood Church of Christ,
Charlottetown

The reason why the search for life after death is so goofy is because empirical evidence is not needed to settle these questions. Not only is there no life after death, but to say "There is no life after death" is a tautology. Like four-sided triangles or square circles or married bachelors, the "afterlife" is a self-contradiction. If there is life, then there was no death, because death means the end of life. Period. Death means, as Shakespeare's King Lear put it, that "Thou'lt come no more, never, never, never, never, never!" There, got it now?

Bill Kubera,
Monarch, Alta.



BETTYE PRESS/PICTURE CUBE/ROUL

AIDS patient in Zaire: assessing the human and financial toll of a global killer

A socialist geography

In her April 20 column, "Leftist straws blown away by the wind," Barbara Amiel demonstrates the total lack of respect or even recognition paid to Western Canada by the Ontario elite. Toronto-based journalists and politicians in Ottawa have long considered Ontario to "be" Canada. Amiel cites the worldwide rebuffing of socialism "everywhere in the world except Ontario." As a British Columbian, I was aghast at her blatant disregard for the four million Canadians who have recently turned to socialism west of the "border" at the Lake of the Woods. Are we so unimportant that we fail to merit attention?

Tod Grant,
Vancouver

I was mowing my lawn last week when I spotted a hole in the ground. Kneeling down, I peered into it and saw the baleful glow of red eyes staring up from the darkness. Having read numerous columns by Barbara Amiel, I am convinced that my lawn is being invaded by communists. Her columns about Ontario's NDP have alerted me to the dangers of the NDP government here in British Columbia, which even as I write is seeding the earth with communists, they spring from every meadow, fill the air like a malevolent smog, surround and envelop the unsuspecting landscape. That furtive figure outside my window—could it be [illegible]? In these perilous times, Barbara Amiel is our only hope.

Barry Thorbergson,
Enderby, B.C.

The towering Titanic

We appreciated your story about Titanic survivor Eva Hart (People, April 27). But to inform the public that *Titanica* is a film without qualifying it as IMAX leads them to believe that they can see it at a regular cinema. The IMAX film shows on screens up to eight storeys high.

Prudence Emery,
Unit Publicist, Titanica,
Toronto

Letters may be condensed. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Write: Letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, Maclean Hunter Bldg., 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7. Or fax: (416) 596-7730.



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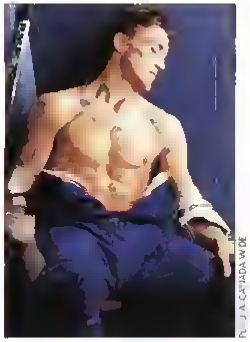
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OPENING NOTES

Mulroney leads a poll, giants foster unity, and farmers push sexy exports

A big Swede's goal for Upper Canada



When big Borje Salming moved back to Sweden two years ago, he carried home more than the scars from 17 years as an NHL defenceman, his six all-star honors and memories of 16 seasons as a Toronto Maple Leaf, one as a Detroit Red Wing. Salming, now 41, took home a powerful thirst for a Toronto-brewed beer that he had favored during his later years as a Leaf. Setting himself up as an importer, he has marketed the micro-brewery's Upper Canada lager to about 60 bars and restaurants since December. But the local hero—he plays for the Stockholm AIK and was on Sweden's Olympic hockey team at the Winter Games in February—ran afoul of sports establishment critics who frown on mixing sport and alcohol. Then, Swedish authorities convinced him, on pain of a $20,000 penalty, to abandon an ad that linked the no-additives beer with the great outdoors. Media fans raced to Salming's defence, and now he aims to stickhandle his import into the state-run liquor stores. Another fan, Stockholm's Canadian Embassy, which at "A Taste of Canada" promotion of consumables on May 13, is featuring his favorite brew as the only beverage on show.

And the winners are...



Copps haute



LeBlanc hot

Brian Mulroney often insists that he and his Tories will bounce back from their abysmal rating in national opinion polls and hold power in the election due within 18 months. And last week, the Prime Minister indeed finished on top in a poll—twice. Parliamentary assistants, in an April survey by the weekly *Hill Times* House organ, ranked Mulroney best-dressed male MP. The 147 staffers also picked Mulroney—in a tie with Finance Minister Don Mazankowski and another Albertan, Tory Walter Van De Walle—as biggest tightwad. Sheila Copps, the Hamilton MP who went haute couture for her 1990 run at the Liberal leadership, beat External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall as the best-dressed female MP. McDougall also came second in the worst-dressed race, behind Halifax Liberal Mary Clancy. Worst-dressed male: tweedy Toronto NDPer Dan Heap. The "sexiest" MPs: Montreal Tory Carole Jacques and Cape Breton Liberal Francis LeBlanc. Rollicking Newfoundland Liberal George Baker was voted both best jokester and "most fun to work with." Second best joke-teller was Newfoundlander John Crosbie, fisheries minister. But Crosbie won with Mulroney second, in a related contest—as the MP who tells the worst jokes.

TOURISM



LOCAL ICONS

Against a backdrop of interregional tensions, National Tourism Awareness Week (May 11 to 15), announced in Ottawa last week, aims to encourage Canadians to visit communities across the land. And Vancouver artist-photographer Henri Robideau says that travellers can gain a better understanding of all of Canada's regions by viewing any one of scores of "world's biggest" attractions towering coast to coast. Robideau, 46, a self-described gianthropologist, has photographed more than 150 such monuments and published 70 of them in his 1988 book, *Canada's Gigantic!*, including:

- Killer ant (Bonshaw, P.E.I.)
- Lobster trap (Cheticamp, N.S.)
- Potato person (Maugerville, N.B.)
- Rosary (Cap-de-la-Madelaine, Que.)
- Symons oilcan (Rocanville, Sask.)
- Ukrainian Easter egg (Vegreville, Alta.)
- Hockey stick & puck (Cowichan Bay, B.C.)

New giant things erected recently a massive mosquito in Komarno (Ukrainian for "full of mosquitoes"), Man., and a "World's Largest Pyrogy" in Glendon, Alta.

Robideau says that, whereas U.S. businesses build such monuments to lure customers, Canada's giants are usually publicly funded symbols of community pride. And Canadians often are more monumentally literal, as in New Brunswick's giant magnet on Magnetic Hill; Ontario's wild goose at Wawa (Cree for wild goose) and Saskatchewan's moose in Moose Jaw, turtle in Turtleford and Indian head in Indian Head. Robideau says that the icons can be a unifying influence. Declared Robideau, "Instead of having ethnic groups fighting with one another, we should be competing creatively by making things."

A ready-made mission

While he awaits formal White House nomination to replace Edward Ney as U.S. ambassador to Ottawa, President George Bush's longtime pal and former campaign press aide Peter Teeley, 52, is already deep in briefings on the nitty-gritty of Canada-U.S. affairs. Not that the communications consultant lacks familiarity with one issue that members of Canada's cultural community are determined to keep off the table in current continental free trade talks: the movie business. A major Teeley client is the Motion Picture Association of America, whose outspoken president, Jack Valenti—despite the already powerful role of U.S. film distributors in Canada—has taken frequent swipes at the "coarse regulations" and "artificial barriers" of Ottawa's film policy.

Turned on by all that jazz



Barclay: tape talk

BAYNE STANLEY

From the late 1960s, including the years 1971 to 1985 as host of *The All-Night Jazz Show* at Vancouver's CHQM and QMFM radio and a spell as an independent CBC producer, Gary Barclay, now 45, amassed a formidable 240 interviews with top jazz musicians. His 340 taped hours of off-air sessions—"behind the scenes, backstage, in hotel rooms"—range through trumpet greats Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie to bassist Charles Mingus and pianists Jay McShann and Mary Lou Williams. Two years ago, he devised a program series mixing the talk with music and made a pilot with a $2,000 CAPS (Canadian Artists and Programs on Satellite) grant from Toronto-based Maclean Hunter Ltd. After offers to the CBC and Canadian commercial radio fell on deaf ears, Barclay's pitch turned on the U.S. Public Radio Satellite System. It will launch a 13-part series in January to affiliated stations. Now, Barclay hopes to make his collection permanent in a book and on discs—with help from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

O Canada: land and *l'eau*

On facing pages of the annual *Canadian Parliamentary Guide* (1992, Globe and Mail Publishing, Toronto) articles headed "Canada" and "Le Canada" offer readers markedly different stories. First, the English version dwells on landmass—second largest after the Soviet Union (sic), for one thing—in French, liquid takes pride of place—"each year, 8,000,000,000,000 tonnes of water falls on Canada in the form of rain and snow." Then, outlined in English, is Canada's "union" and territorial growth. The French version sketches the division of powers in Confederation—"in reality, more a federation within which 10 entities, called provinces, possess a definite sovereignty" under "the theoretical chief of state, the lieutenant governor." Also in French only: although the sovereign is British, "it is insisted that, as a result of the Crown's divisibility, Elizabeth II is designated Queen of Canada." Both endings are statistical—although, by then, Canada's freshwater area has expanded. In both languages, to 755,169 square kilometres from 754,877 square kilometres at the top of the French page.

FAR-OUT FARMING



ADAMSMITH PRODUCTIONS/FIRST LIGHT

With markets for Prince Edward Island potatoes just recovering from infection that provoked a U.S. ban, tobacco sales out of puff and the fur trade flagging, some Island farmers are turning to crops with far-out appeal. MLA Lynwood MacPherson grows ginseng and other herbs on his Eldon tobacco farm with an eye on Far East demand for sex-and-health elixirs. And Agriculture Minister Keith Milligan has seized the problem by the horns, in a sense. He runs elk on his Tyne Valley fox ranch, mainly for the meat but also with designs on the Orient, where antler velvet is prized as an aphrodisiac. Milligan, 42, a father of three, acknowledges sampling the venison, and MacPherson, 44, with four, has tried his herbs. But the two politicians agree in one voice that, as for aphrodisiacs, "Islanders don't need them."

PASSAGES



DIED: British painter **Francis Bacon**, 82, of cardiac arrest, in a Madrid clinic while on vacation in Spain. Bacon, hailed by critics and art patrons as one of the 20th century's greatest artists, painted often-disquieting images of sex and death that he described as springing from "ebullient despair." Although he had no formal art training, he began painting in 1929 after he was inspired to become a great artist at a **Picasso** exhibition. His works sold for millions of dollars, but Bacon shunned the trappings of wealth, living alone in a ramshackle house in London where he painted.

JAILED: Pte. **Patrick Cloutier**, whose nose-to-nose staring contest with a masked Mohawk Warrior became one of the most enduring symbols of the tense 78-day standoff in the summer of 1990 in Oka, Que., in a military prison for 45 days, after admitting to being an occasional cocaine user.

DIED: French composer **Olivier Messiaen**, 83, following an operation in a Paris hospital. Messiaen, one of France's best-known 20th-century composers, drew his inspiration from eclectic sources, ranging from his devout Roman Catholic faith to Balinese dance to bird songs.

AWARDED: One of France's most important literary awards, the best foreign book award, to novelist **Jane Urquhart** for her English-language novel *The Whirlpool*. Urquhart, who joins previous winners **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** and **Alexander Solzhenitsyn**, is the first Canadian to win the prize.

DIED: **Brian Pockar**, 32, a former three-time Canadian men's figure skating champion, of complications from the AIDS virus, in his Calgary home.

DIED: Nurse **Louise de Kiriline-Lawrence**, 98, who helped deliver and care for the Dionne quintuplets in 1934, in a North Bay, Ont., hospital. De Kiriline-Lawrence, who was born into Swedish aristocracy, led a life of adventure, working as a nurse during the First World War and the Russian Revolution before moving to Canada in 1924.

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Nineties toys in the comfortable cocoons

BY CHARLES GORDON

We watch the dismal electoral season in the United States and prepare unenthusiastically for one of our own. The voters grumble about the politicians, *all* politicians, the problems worsen and nobody seems to be trying to solve them. There is no agreement on what the problems are, the only real consensus seems to be that they cannot be solved. Even the contesting parties agree on that: what passes for a political platform these days is a collection of TV commercials—that and some Nineties platitudes having to do with dedication, leadership, really listening to the people and new ideas.

And what are those new ideas? Listen to the men running for president. Their ideas are about leadership, dedication and really listening to the people. They are not about poverty and unemployment, the two most important problems in our country and the country to the south. The new ideas are not about restoring deteriorating institutions, services and infrastructure.

The odds are that American and Canadian voters will do what British voters have just done—elect a government that will not address the important problems. More disturbing, the odds also are that the majority of voters will not mind all that much.

How does this happen? The economy is in tatters, people are suffering, and yet government doesn't act and people don't complain. The Canadian-born Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith has a compelling explanation in a new book called *The Culture of Contentment*. "In past times," Galbraith writes, "the economically and socially fortunate were, as we know, a small minority—characteristically a dominant and ruling handful. They are now a majority, though ... a majority not of all citizens but of those who actually vote."

Galbraith argues that governments reflect the concerns of the comfortable. If governments do nothing to fight poverty, it is because the people who elect them want it that way.

Newsrooms have moved to the suburbs, reporters own houses—as well as VCRs and CDs. The culture of contentment gets to them too.

In the United States with its low voter turnout, the contented majority could represent less than a quarter of the population. In Canada where more people vote, the culture of contentment might seem to be less relevant. But our multiparty system overrepresents some minorities, including the comfortable, and helps them rule. Galbraith's analysis is no less applicable here.

Here, as in the United States, comfortable people want to remain comfortable. What threatens their contentment is not poverty and unemployment, but higher taxes. "That taxes should now be used to reduce inequality," Galbraith writes, "is ... clearly outside the realm of comfortable thought. Here, the collision between wise social action and the culture of contentment is most apparent."

If an underclass has been created, it does not concern the comfortable: poverty is not in their neighborhoods and they do not have to go where poverty is. In extreme cases in the United States, the comfortable live behind walls in privately patrolled neighborhoods guarded by dogs and electronic alarms.

It can be argued that even the less affluent are protected from the intrusion of discomforting thoughts by their toys—the VCR, the CD player, the home computer games, the home entertainment centre—ironically, the very possessions that give the lie to the bleat about being overtaxed. A kind of political cocooning takes place: the upper and upper-middle classes are able to shield themselves from the ugly realities of life, and are not affected by cries of the downtrodden. In the United States, where the gap between the rich and poor has widened considerably in the Reagan-Bush years, homelessness has become an accepted part of the urban landscape and bag-lady jokes are part of the routine of stand-up comics.

Could it happen here? What's to prevent it? Not the news media, which once prided themselves on "comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable," as the saying goes. Now they've become comfortable themselves. The newsrooms have moved to the suburbs, the reporters own houses—as well as VCRs and CDs. The culture of contentment gets to them too. Political reporters solemnly pass on bankers' warnings about the deficit; when reporters hear a political promise, their first question is not "Whom will it help?" but "What will it cost?"

Will our politicians save the day? Not likely. If Galbraith's analysis holds, serving the comfortable majority is the key to re-election. "Those pursuing these policies," he writes, "have been reacting faithfully to the will of their constituency, the contented electoral majority." That means keeping taxes down, or at least promising to. It does not mean proposing government spending to help the poor, or create jobs, clean up the environment, repair the infrastructure, improve the schools or any of the hundreds of other things that desperately need doing.

You can see how much the reaction to taxation has terrified our politicians when an NDP government authorizes casinos in Ontario as a means of raising revenue. What's next, legalized cockfighting for hospital funding?

Will our good sense save us? It would be nice to think so. But to save ourselves, we would have to get involved in politics. At the moment, we would sooner rent movies and complain about how the politicians are letting us down.

Galbraith himself is pessimistic. He admits to the possibility that a presidential candidate might somehow get out the vote of the disadvantaged, but is doubtful it will happen. Only economic disaster, military misadventure or revolt of the underprivileged could cause the situation to change.

We may be seeing the latter in Los Angeles. In Canada, the economic disaster scenario has at least a chance. Some comfortable people have abruptly found themselves without employment, developing an instant and newfound empathy with the less fortunate. Even those who are lucky enough to stay employed know, more and more each day, others whose jobs have gone south, figuratively and/or literally. We have at least a chance to wake up.

If we don't, we will at least have been warned: we have become partners with government in our own undoing.

Charles Gordon is a columnist with The Ottawa Citizen.



Laughren (left), Rae. promising casinos and tax incentives to business while targeting the middle class

CANADA

AGAINST THE GRAIN

CRITICS CHARGE THAT BY RAISING TAXES, ONTARIO'S NDP GOVERNMENT WILL PROLONG THE RECESSION

Only a year ago, Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren declared that he would not raise personal income tax rates because "such moves would worsen the recession." Since then, the economic outlook for Canada's most recession-battered province has scarcely changed—but the NDP treasurer's views on tax increases clearly have. Last week, Laughren slapped more than $1 billion in new taxes on a province still reeling from the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. And although Laughren predicted that his budget would create jobs and restore investors' confidence, some economists cautioned that the array of tax hikes would discourage consumer spending and make it harder for the country as a whole to climb out of recession.

Indeed, the Ontario New Democratic Party's economic strategy runs counter to thet of most governments in the rest of Canada. Of the seven provinces that have tabled budgets so far this year, only two—British Columbia and Newfoundland—raised personal income taxes. The federal government, for its part, actually cut income taxes in its February budget, by about $160 a year for a married person with two children and an annual income of $50,000. Unlike other Canadians, however, Ontario's taxpayers will be denied the benefit of even that small change. Laughren plans to capture the entire federal tax savings—and then some. The treasurer's budget also imposed a higher surtax on middle- and upper-income taxpayers, defined as those with taxable incomes in excess of $53,000 a year—down from last year's threshold of $84,000. Complained Loudon Owen, 34, a Toronto commercial lawyer who has organized public rallies by businessmen opposed to Premier Bob Rae's government: "At a time when the economy of this province is under siege, it really is the wrong message."

Laughren, a 56-year-old former economics instructor from Sudbury, Ont., insisted that his government's planned spending of $51 billion during 1992 would create 90,000 new jobs and hold the provincial deficit to a projected $9.9 billion. That figure is several billion dollars lower than government predictions earlier this year. Among other changes, the NDP said that it will generate new revenues by licensing casino gambling in Ontario (page 14). As well, the government estimates that it can sell some of its assets, including Toronto's SkyDome and a Crown-owned petrochemicals company, Suncor Inc., for about $1 billion.

But business and opposition critics charged that the tax increases will siphon spending money from workers' pockets and stifle demand for everything from clothing to cars and building materials. "So much for a consumer-led recovery," said Gordon Floyd, president of Toronto-based Public Affairs Management. Added Floyd, whose firm lobbies the Ontario government on behalf of business clients: "The personal tax increases are going to prolong the recession." That sentiment was echoed by Colin Dodds, an economist at Halifax's St. Mary's University. "By continuing to send Ontario further into a recession," Dodds said, "the [Ontario] government will hurt Atlantic Canada."

Several other analysts predicted that Ontario's spiralling tax burden would fuel migration out of the province. Declared Michael Walker, executive director of Vancouver's Fraser Institute, a conservative think tank: "The fact that people with more than $53,000 of income are now regarded as plump is ludicrous. People will move and business activity will go to other parts of Canada and the United States."

Still, the recession-induced strains on Ontario's finances left Laughren with a difficult choice. If, instead of raising taxes, he had let the provincial deficit rise even higher, the resulting demand for borrowed funds would likely have put upward pressure on Canadian interest rates, said Douglas Peters, chief economist for the Toronto-Dominion Bank. Another option would have been to impose dramatic cuts in provincial government spending—but that, too, would have dampened the prospects for economic growth. Added Peters: "You really can't have it both ways. Whatever route you take, it's going to have an adverse impact on consumer demand."

While Laughren rapped taxpayers, his budget made new overtures to the province's business community by providing $69 million in corporate tax breaks. Senior New Democrats privately say that they are trying to placate the business community, which has blasted the government for its record deficits and planned overhaul of labor legislation that would increase the powers of unions.

Last year, the NDP dismissed claims by business critics that the 1991-1992 deficit—which came in at $10.9 billion, $1.2 billion higher than forecast—would lead to higher taxes. But the result of Laughren's additional borrowing will be another $843 million in interest payments on the provincial debt this year—almost as much as the projected revenue from this year's tax hikes. Declared Lyn McLeod, leader of the opposition Liberals: "Laughren had to build this budget on the disaster of last year's budget. But you can't tax your way out of a deficit."

For his part, Rae told reporters that the government planned a series of new public works projects that would help to stimulate economic recovery. In fact, the budget actually reduced capital spending by $122 million from last year's figure of $5.65 billion. And although Laughren's budget imposed cuts of $447 million on government operations, the province's total spending will still rise by 4.9 per cent—roughly three times the current rate of inflation. Indeed, some departments, including the ministries of skills development and industry, trade and technology, will receive budget increases of more than 30 per cent.

Rae's political advisers acknowledge that the NDP's chances of re-election hinge on building credibility as economic managers. For now, New Democrats appear to be hoping that a recovery will generate a flood of new personal and business tax revenues, reducing the province's record deficit and setting the stage for a recovery before a provincial election in 1994 or 1995. But even if it lives up to its fiscal promises, Rae's government risks alienating Ontario's taxpayers—whose economic bruises may take even longer to heal.

PAUL KAIHLA *with BRIAN BERGMAN in Toronto and JOHN DeMONT in Halifax*

CANADA WATCH

The Quebec government appears close to rejoining national unity talks, making a constitutional settlement more likely. Quebec has boycotted federal-provincial meetings since the 1990 collapse of the Meech Lake accord. But the province's intergovernmental affairs minister, Gil Rémillard, said that Quebec would return to the bargaining table if it were offered substantially the same powers that it won in the Meech round—including the right to three of nine Supreme Court judges and a veto over future constitutional changes. In Edmonton, negotiators for Ottawa and the nine other provinces agreed to most of those conditions, although Alberta and several others vowed to oppose Quebec's veto demand until they win agreement on a reformed Senate. In other developments:

- **Federal officials said that they expect to propose legislation later this month to create the legal framework for a national referendum.**
- **Native leaders said that they are closer to satisfying their demands on self-government and other issues.**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm courageous, but I'm not silly."

—Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on why a federal election this year is unlikely

National Notes

JAILHOUSE RIOT

About 700 inmates at Montreal's Bordeaux prison burned mattresses and ripped plumbing out of the walls during a seven-hour rampage that caused an estimated $1 million in damage to the 80-year-old minimum-security institution. The riot, which prisoners blamed on overcrowding and which resulted in 14 injuries, was finally subdued by 200 police.

WELLS VERSUS EUROPE

Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells accused European leaders of showing a "callous" disregard for the effects of overfishing after failing to persuade them to limit fishing on the Grand Banks. In Brussels, he said that Canada will join other "responsible and concerned nations" to create an international police force if overfishing does not stop by the end of June.

COUNTING CANADIANS

Canada's population grew by 7.9 per cent between 1986 and 1991 to almost 27.3 million, according to Statistics Canada's 1991 census. Among other findings, Quebec's share of the country's population, which has steadily declined over the past 40 years, now stands at 25.3 percent, compared with 28.9 per cent in 1951, the population of Toronto, the country's largest metropolitan centre, now is almost 3.9 million people, Saskatchewan was the only province to register a population loss.

SENTENCING A 'COWARD'

Quebec Court Judge Pierre Brassard sentenced Glen Crossley, 22, of Montreal, to 10 months in jail for leaving the scene of a 1989 car accident that killed Olympic swimming champion Victor Davis. Brassard said that Crossley, who drove the car that struck and killed Davis, displayed "cowardice" by failing to stop or to bring assistance to Davis, who died in hospital two days later.

UP FOR SALE

Ottawa unveiled a plan to let Canada Post employees purchase up to 10 per cent of the Crown corporation.

SWIPING AT REFORM

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney urged 1,200 students in Chetwynd, 750 km north of Vancouver, to "resist the siren calls that would take us away from the fundamentals that built Canada." While Mulroney made his comments in a riding that has shown increasing support for the Reform Party of Canada, he later insisted to reporters that he was not alluding to his political opponents.



CANADA

A questionable jackpot

Gambling in Winnipeg produces controversy

Last week, Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren announced that the province would legalize year round casino gambling starting in 1993. Although the NDP government has not yet decided whether it will run the gambling operations, the province would become the fourth jurisdiction in Canada after British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba to license casinos. So far, only the Manitoba government has chosen to own and operate a gambling house. Maclean's *Senior Writer Patricia Chisholm recently visited Winnipeg's Crystal Casino, which opened in December, 1989, after a fierce public debate about the merits of government involvement in gambling, to assess its progress. Her report*

In a room lit by the eerie glow from 219 blinking, clanking slot machines, a plainly dressed 51-year-old woman watches intently as a friend shovels $1 coins into one of their favorite games, a one-armed bandit advertising a jackpot of more than $191,000. A self-described gambling addict who requested anonymity, she says that she visits Winnipeg's Crystal Casino no more than once or twice a month, far less often than in the past. Her previous all-too-frequent showdowns with the slot machines came at a price by her own accounting, she has lost $15,000 in the casino since it opened almost 2½ years ago. "I used to get a $500 cash advance on my Visa card, lose it, and then go back for another $500 after midnight," says the woman. "I'd do that every day for a week." Although she sometimes won—including eight $1,600 prizes—it was never enough, and the mountain of debt only grew larger. Now, casting her eye over the slot machines on a recent Wednesday evening, she says that the casino, which is owned and operated by the Manitoba government, should never have opened. "People like me," she says, "just can't stay away."

Greed and the thrill of gambling draw hundreds of people to the elegant gaming rooms of the Crystal Casino six days a week, almost every week of the year. Although this is a slow night—the Winnipeg Jets are playing a home game—more than 900 gamblers are scattered among the casino's four rooms in downtown Winnipeg's renovated Hotel Fort Garry; at peak periods, the number of patrons has reached 2,500. Periodically, shouts of joy explode from the slots room. Some of the patrons gathered around the 26 gaming tables smile with satisfaction. But for the most part, the gamblers concentrate intently on their games of blackjack, roulette and baccarat. So they should, with the odds stacked in favor of the house, the big winner tonight will be the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation, the provincial agency that operates the facility.

The Crystal Casino: the big winner is the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation

Last year, the casino spun off $13.2 million in profits. Most of that money went straight into Manitoba's Health Services Development Fund, which sponsors health-promotion programs that are intended to reduce long-term medical costs. Even so, some critics remain staunchly opposed to the casino, among them Dianne Cooper, executive secretary of the United Church Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The church, which has about four million members across the country, has long opposed any kind of gambling, with many parishes even refusing government

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grants of money generated by lotteries and other games of chance. Says Cooper: "Gambling looks attractive because the government is frantic for money. But check out the odds—it's a fool's game. If it is viewed simply as an evening out, it is not dangerous. But for others, it is as addictive as alcohol, with all the problems that implies."

Cooper also complains that the architectural elegance of the Crystal Casino glamorizes gambling. Unlike smaller, privately run casinos in British Columbia and Alberta, the Crystal Casino, renovated and equipped at a cost of $5 million, radiates an atmosphere of turn-of-the-century refinement. The gaming room's cathedral ceilings are carved and overlaid with gold leaf. Huge mirrors in the main gaming room, separated from the banks of slot machines by a reception area, reflect the glow from 18 crystal chandeliers and brass wall sconces. The beautifully crafted gaming tables are from France (the slot machines are made in Japan) and feature polished wood trim and brass fittings. Unlike most casinos, no alcohol is served—patrons may drink in the hotel's two bars before and after playing—and a dress code requiring a jacket and tie or "equivalent dress" is carefully enforced.

Still, few visitors would mistake the facility for Monaco's Monte Carlo Casino. Most of the Winnipeg patrons are of modest means, and even the occasional gamblers out for a brief flirtation with lady luck project a casual air. Thomas Campbell, a Winnipeg social worker, has managed to get in with a string tie and cowboy boots. Although he has already lost the $50 that he set as his limit for the night, Campbell says that he supports the casino's existence. "I work with inner-city kids, and I'm glad to see the money from the Lotteries Foundation doing some good," he says. As for those addicted to gambling, Campbell notes that even without the Crystal Casino, they would somehow manage to satisfy their yearnings. "There's a race track that's been here for years, or they'll find a card game," Campbell says. "People who are going to gamble will always find a game somewhere."

Many of the Crystal Casino's patrons have indeed tried their luck at other games. Lisa McKay, who worked at a downtown Winnipeg doughnut shop until it shut down last week, says that she has lost far more at bingo than she normally does at the casino. "I was down $1,500 in February, going to bingo every night," McKay says. She adds that her mother has better luck, occasionally winning enough at blackjack to help her daughter retrieve her possessions from a local pawnshop. Says McKay, who is 19 and started gambling when she was 14: "The casino is OK for some people—it depends on who you are. Some people don't know when to stop."

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Game	Bets	Casino's take*
Blackjack	$2 to $200	1%
Roulette	$1 to $500	5%
Slot machines	25¢ to $5	10%

*Average share of total wagers retained by house. For comparison purposes, provincial governments on average keep 30 to 40 per cent of the money bet on lotteries.

SOURCE: MANITOBA LOTTERIES FOUNDATION, ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

ERIC LEGGE

Although Manitoba Lotteries Foundation general director William Funk acknowledges that the casino appeals to addicted gamblers, he says that his staff will refuse admission to people who recognize that they have a gambling problem and ask to be barred from the casino. Says Funk: "We respect the views of those who are opposed to gambling, but we look upon it as a fact of life. Seventy per cent of our players have played elsewhere. We would rather keep those players and their dollars in the province."

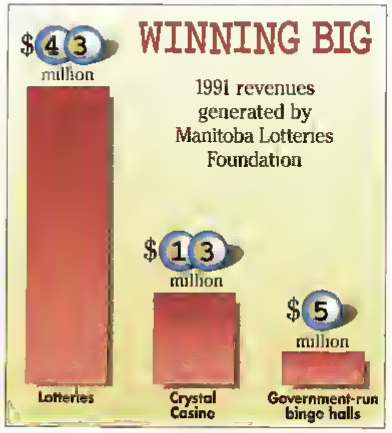
And whether or not they agree with the idea of gambling, local officials say that the casino has had no obvious negative impact on the city. Insp. Ray Johns of the Winnipeg police department's vice division says that the facility's security measures and the absence of alcohol have helped to prevent any significant increase in crimes often associated with gaming houses, including theft and prostitution. As well, many former police officers work at the casino as security guards, creating a close relationship with the police that Johns says has been the key to the casino's smooth operation.

In fact, some community members say that the casino has resulted in a significant increase in revenues for Winnipeg businesses, from taxi companies to neighboring hotels. It has also given a new lease on life to the Hotel Fort Garry, which was on the verge of bankruptcy before it was purchased by Quebec real estate developer Raymond Malenfant in 1988. Although Malenfant receives nothing from the casino except yearly rent of $250,000, his son Alain, a vice-president of the family-owned company, says that the hotel's occupancy rate has jumped by 40 per cent since the casino opened. The Malenfants, whose businesses have been hurt badly by the recent sharp fall in property values, are now vigorously lobbying the Quebec government to permit a similar casino in another of their hotels, the Manoir Richelieu in Pointe-au-Pic, 90 km east of Quebec City.

Both father and son are strong supporters of government involvement in gambling, which they say reduces the possibility of criminal activity. Says Alain: "Where there is money, there is temptation. Here, there is no hanky-panky. There is nothing more important than the credibility of the casino." The gamblers who gravitate to the Crystal Casino, nursing dreams of that one big payoff, would surely agree. □

WINNING BIG

1991 revenues generated by Manitoba Lotteries Foundation





Police examining Kristen French's body: frightened residents fear a serial killer is loose

SANFORD/CANADA WIDE

Letter from St. Catharines

Living in terror

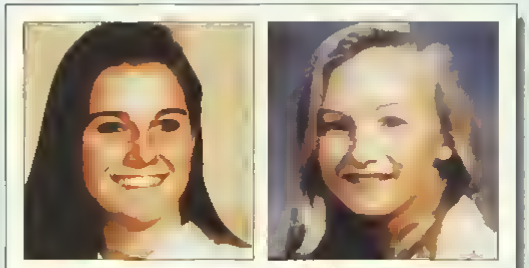
The stacks of missing-person posters are gone. Before the horrific news, Douglas and Donna French had handed them out from their St. Catharines, Ont., living room, desperately hoping that they would produce clues to the fate of their missing daughter, Kristen. Someone had abducted the 15-year-old Grade 10 student as she walked home from school on April 16. Fourteen days later, a man scavenging for metal in nearby Burlington found the girl dead near a wooded ditch, humped in a fetal position, her long brown hair shorn. Now, people in the frightened Lake Ontario community of St. Catharines are closing ranks around the victim's family. On this rainy night, as car tires hiss across the wet asphalt in front of the French's bungalow, friends and strangers alike pay their respects, bearing flowers, food and gifts. One of the grievers is Karen, a 29-year-old pregnant mother of two who, like other young women in the area, asked that her last name be kept private for security reasons. Said Karen, who has never met the French family before, but delivered a wooden model of a church with tiny stained-glass windows that her mother had made. "People in St. Catharines are outraged. Whoever took Kristen is not just a criminal mind—but a really sick one."

The tragedy is the latest dark link in a chain of chilling events that has infected the Niagara Peninsula and the city of St. Catharines (population 130,000) with an overwhelming sense of revulsion. Five months before Kristen's abduction and death, 14-year-old Terri Anderson disappeared sometime after 2 a.m. from the St. Catharines townhouse that she shared with her father. The striking blonde was a cheerleader and honors student at the city's Lakeport Secondary School, next to the Catholic high school that Kristen French attended. Her fate remains unknown. The gruesome saga began last June when a father and son, while fishing, discovered the remains of Leslie Mahaffy, a 14-year-old Grade 9 student from Burlington, whose parents had reported her missing two weeks earlier. Someone had dismembered Mahaffy's body and attempted to conceal it in concrete blocks dumped in a nearby reservoir. "After two girls disappearing in the past five months, and another one five months before that, I'm scared," said Andrea, a 21-year-old night cashier at a local gas station who graduated three years ago from the same high school attended by French. "I don't go *anywhere* without an escort now."

That fear is clearly well-founded. Last week, police said that a serial killer was likely responsible for Anderson's disappearance along with the Mahaffy and French murders. French—affectionately nicknamed "Browner" by classmates—was last seen at about 3 p.m., struggling with the driver of a cream-colored Camaro in a church parking lot along her usual route home. During the struggle, French lost one of her leather loafers before she was pulled into the car. Investigators have concluded that the murderer kept French alive for about 10 days, sexually abusing the teenager before strangling her to death and dumping her body. At week's end, forensic psychiatrists from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation were drawing up a psychological profile of the killer, and police investigators said an arrest was imminent.

While the nervous citizenry waited for a possible arrest, they radically altered their daily routines. Situated on the southwest shore of Lake Ontario, 110 km from Toronto, St. Catharines has traditionally enjoyed a reputation as a safe, family-oriented community, typical of small cities with large working-class and ethnic populations. But as the first lawn mowers of the season began to whine last week, cutting green grass beneath still-bare trees, residents were haunted by many unknowns. Who was responsible? Would Terri Anderson be found alive? And, perhaps the most dreadful question of all, who would be next? In the climate of fear and paranoia, the mere sight of a young woman walking alone down a sunny street appeared jarring—an act of unnecessary risk.

Fearful that whoever is responsible for the recent disappearances could strike again, many women were staying at home or arming themselves with small weapons when they had to go out. At the gas station where she works, night cashier Andrea relies on a hefty companion for protection. Brushing back her long auburn hair behind the counter, she draws a heavy wooden baseball bat with the words "little billy" scrawled along its length in black marker—an ironic reference to the traditional policeman's stick. Declared Andrea, who knows the French family: "There is a father out there, and some bastard has killed his daughter. If anyone comes near me, Lord help him."



French (left); Anderson: abduction in broad daylight

CANADA WIDE

People are particularly alarmed by the increasing boldness of the crimes. "What is so shocking about Kristen French's abduction is that she was taken in broad daylight," says Ken Lee, an education consultant who served as principal at two high schools near French's and Anderson's schools. "I was a principal for 27 years and thousands of kids have gone through my hands. Nothing like this has ever happened. It's unheard of." The sense of incredulity has also developed into a thirst for revenge. "Kristen was such a beautiful and talented girl, she could have gone anywhere in life," said 74-year-old Ward Mitchell, the French family's next-door neighbor of 15 years. "She was almost like my own daughter." Added another neighbor, "If they find him, I wish they'd put him in a room with me. He would die a slow death."

As residents tensely waited for police to make an arrest, mere acquaintances exchanged the latest tidbits of information during chance conversations in parking lots and local stores. They shared rumors trickling out from the police investigation, reports of possible sightings of suspects and theories about what might have happened. Some of the speculation about the string of crimes has indeed been cruel. When Anderson's father—whose first name is Terry—awoke on the morning after his daughter disappeared last Nov. 30, he found the front door mysteriously ajar. After he reported Terri missing, Anderson, 41, says that he learned that some local residents suspected him of foul play. "People said that I'd killed her and I was driving around with her body in the trunk," he says.

Last week, a group of teenage boys from Terri Anderson's Lakeport school, milling about a nearby convenience store between classes, held out little hope of finding their missing classmate. Said 18-year-old student Mike Doyle: "I think it's a situation like *Silence of the Lambs*. Psychotic people get ideas from these movies. Whoever is doing this is getting better at it, and he's going to keep doing it."

Police say that the culprit is likely an area resident. But Michael Doucette, the 42-year-old paper-mill technician who found Mahaffy's body, disagrees. The events of the fateful day last year are still clearly etched in his mind. After dinner, Doucette and his oldest son grabbed their fishing gear and set out for Lake Gibson, a muddy reservoir 15 minutes away by car from their St. Catharines home. After casting for perch and bass for an hour that warm summer night, Doucette spotted an odd-looking object and waded out from shore to investigate. There, in about three feet of water, he discovered a human thigh partly encased in a block of concrete. Nearby, a shocked Doucette pried a bloodstained layer of cement from the top of another block, exposing the lower half of a girl's leg. A six-hour search later that night turned up a several other body parts—each concealed in its own concrete tomb. "It has to be someone pretty sadistic to do that to a person," Doucette recalled last week. "It was very sad."

But Doucette adds that the grisly discovery demonstrates that the person responsible for the Mahaffy murder could not have known the area very well. "He dumped the concrete in only three feet of water," Doucette noted. "If he had dumped the stuff over the bridge down the road, the water there is quite quick and deep. We might never have found her."

As the French family made funeral arrangements last week, students from Kristen's Holy Cross Secondary School helped distribute 40,000 green ribbons as a symbol of community solidarity—and of hope for the safe return of Anderson. Two of the students handing out those emblems were Amanda, 17, and Wendy, 18, a friend of one of French's brothers. While other classmates now make a practice of walking in groups, French's abduction also led the two girls to acquire a minor arsenal. Together, they carry three sound-alarm devices, two pocketknives and, although the substance is illegal in Canada, a can of Mace acquired from a U.S. mail-order firm.

Ever since French's abduction, the growing tension has even moved into the schoolrooms at Holy Cross. Teachers urged students not to talk to journalists, and before the discovery of French's body principal Maurice Charbonneau assigned a beefy member of the school football team to ensure that a visitor left the school property without asking students questions about the case. Later, the first reports of Kristen's death were greeted with loud sobs in classrooms and corridors. For those students, along with their teachers and parents, the terror remains. In a eulogy for Kristen read by Charbonneau over the school's public address system last Friday, the principal ended with a simple request—"God, deliver us from evil."

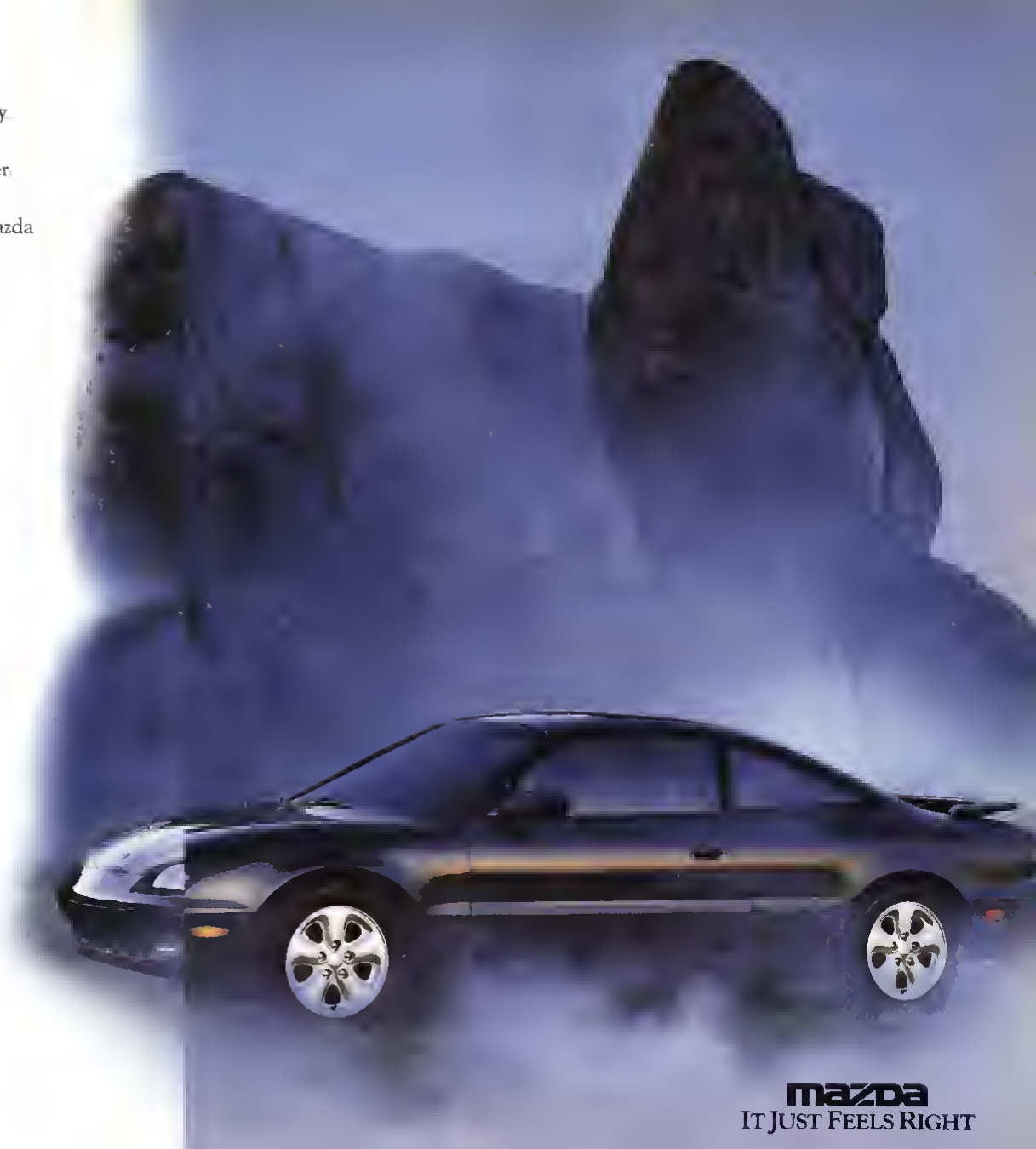
PAUL KAIHLA *in St. Catharines*

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STREETS OF HATE

MURDER AND MAYHEM TURN LOS ANGELES INTO AMERICA'S LATEST RACIAL BATTLEGROUND

The scenes were apocalyptic and hauntingly familiar. Once again, a city was in flames, smoke billowing from the charred wasteland of entire blocks. Once again, rage exploded through the streets in an orgy of smashed shop windows, looting and wanton killing. Once again, soldiers in camouflage fatigues and armored personnel carriers rumbled through urban thoroughfares, trying to contain the chaos and disintegrating social fabric. They might have been scenes from some distant, exotic war zone. But this time, the enemy was within, the 375-year-old legacy of that ugly skeleton in the American historical closet: slavery. And what sent chills through those watching the worst racial violence in Los Angeles's history last week was that the searing images might have been 27-year-old scenes from a city—and a racially scarred nation—most Americans hoped they had buried a quarter century ago.

But now, not quite three decades after a six-day race riot in the city's black Watts district claimed 34 dead and $40 million in property damage in 1965, the fires of racial hatred again engulfed south-central Los Angeles, causing even more deaths and more damage. And just as the 1965 riots sparked three long hot summers of inflamed passions in urban ghettos across the United States, last week's violence again spread throughout the country. As mini-protests erupted from Atlanta to Las Vegas, police braced for further unrest from coast to coast. Emerging from a meeting of civil rights leaders at the White House, Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Atlanta-based Southern Christian Leadership Conference, warned that "this is the most critical moment in the nation's history in the past quarter-century." Added Lowery: "Mount Saint Ghetto has erupted and, unless we do something, the lava is going to spill all over the country."



K.M. KORPER/CH. MN. FRANCOIS/REA/PHOTO/SABA

A mob overturns a police car: 'there will be long hot years to come'

But Lowery, and even many of those in the L.A. street mobs, agreed that the rampage had far deeper roots than its ostensible trigger: the fact that a jury with no black members had acquitted four white Los Angeles policemen in the beating of an intoxicated black motorist, Rodney King. The not-guilty verdicts arose despite an amateur videotape that captured the brutality of the March 3, 1991 incident. To many blacks, the outcome confirmed what they perceive as an increasingly institutionalized form of racism. Not only have two successive Republican administrations packed the Supreme Court with conservatives and led the attack on the tenets of affirmative action, but black leaders also blame George Bush and his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, for creating a climate that has made veiled racism respectable.

Many of the civil rights leaders whom Bush summoned to the White House were acutely aware of the paradox of offering advice to a president who came to office in 1988 after what some had called the most racist campaign in recent history—and who threatened to veto last year's civil rights bill. Former Georgia state senator Julian Bond accused Bush of "playing the grossest kind of racial politics."

The L.A. verdicts also took place at a time when a volatile mix of social and economic factors has stoked black frustrations and widened the racial gap. Despite two decades of electoral gains, when black mayors took office in the three largest U.S. cities, when the nation's first black governor was elected in Virginia and when blacks have run for president, it is black Americans who have been hardest hit by the nation's shrinking economy. In 1990, one out of every three blacks was living in poverty. And in the third quarter of 1991, the official black unemployment rate was 12.1 per cent—five points higher than for whites.

Despite impressive gains by a small, emerging black middle class, the average black income remains 57 per cent that of whites. And as black professionals moved to the suburbs, they left behind an increasingly alienated black underclass—uneducated, unemployable and caught in a vicious cycle of poverty and drugs—in the nation's crumbling and underfunded inner cities.

Still, for black leaders, the most disturbing development is the deepening national abyss of racial distrust. In March, the Washington-based People for the American Way published a study of racial attitudes among 15-to-24-year-olds with distinctly gloomy forebodings. Fifty per cent of those surveyed pronounced race relations as "generally bad." And blacks and whites showed vastly differing perceptions of the problem. Said the organization's president, Arthur Kropp: "Ours is a nation divided."

Kropp's pronouncement almost paraphrased another warning made 24 years ago. In 1968, former Illinois governor Otto Kerner reached a similar verdict in a report to then-President Lyndon Johnson on the race riots that had spread from Watts to Detroit and Newark, N.J., the previous summer. Declared Kerner: "Our nation is moving towards two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal." He urged that "this deepening racial divide is not inevitable." But in 1988, on the 20th anniversary of his report, a broad group of scholars found that life for inner-city blacks had further deteriorated and that the two races were further polarized in an atmosphere of "quiet riots."

One of them, former assistant attorney general Roger Wilkins, revisited Watts that year and found "things had gotten worse in terms of urban blight." Business had not returned to Watts's once bustling 103rd Street, which had been transformed into the infamous "Charcoal Alley." And the burned-out hulks of buildings still stood as grotesque reminders of that two-decade-old racial wound. Now, Wilkins says that he worries the same fate awaits south-central Los Angeles—or worse. As he points out, the 1965 riots took place under Johnson, a president who had not only signed the landmark Voting Rights Act a year earlier, but had also just launched his "War on Poverty." But those initiatives came during the 1960s' economic boom. "We were hopeful then," said Wilkins. "Now, we have a society that is more racist and a country that is poorer. We have neither the political will nor the wealth to get things done."

Last week, at the White House, civil rights leaders told Bush that it was not enough merely to restore order to L.A. streets with a show of military force. Unless he addressed the fundamental economic problems of the nation, and black Americans, National Urban League president John Jacob predicted, "There will not only be a long hot summer—there will be long hot years to come." Facing the worst domestic crisis of his presidency, Bush seemed genuinely shaken by events that not only threaten to alter the debate in this year's presidential elections, but have already drastically tarnished America's image abroad. Last week's riots in the city known as the nation's dream factory had suddenly stripped away the country's egalitarian illusions to reveal a gaping racial wound.

MARCI McDONALD *in Washington*

World Notes

A SHRINKING FEDERATION
Serbia and Montenegro, the only two of six republics still committed to a Yugoslav federation, unveiled a new constitution that implicitly recognized the independence of the breakaway four. Meanwhile, in the newly independent country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, ethnic Serbs, who are opposed to secession and aided by the federal army, continued fierce battles with Croats and Moslems who support independence.

A HELPING HAND
The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank approved membership for Russia and most of the 14 other former Soviet republics, clearing the way for nearly $28 billion in loans and aid to support tough economic reforms.

AFGHANI STALEMATE
A new ruling Mujahedeen council met in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, to discuss ways to end fighting between moderate forces and rival hard-line Islamic guerrillas. Fierce violence followed the overthrow of President Najibullah on April 16, dashing hopes for an end to 14 years of civil war.

ITALIAN CHAOS
President Francesco Cossiga formally stepped down, plunging Italy into its worst constitutional crisis since the Second World War. Cossiga's resignation followed that of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti the week before, leaving the country with no president, no prime minister and no effective government.

A CROWDED WORLD
A new United Nations survey predicted that the world's population, now 5.5 billion, will reach six billion in 1998 and will nearly double to 10 billion by the year 2050 if current trends continue.

SEARCHING FOR PEACE
The fifth round of Middle East peace talks between Israelis and Arabs opened in Washington with negotiators exploring an Israeli offer to allow municipal elections for Palestinians in the occupied territories. In an apparent goodwill gesture before the session began, Syria announced that it would lift travel restrictions on its 4,500-member Jewish community.

A FIRST FOR BRITAIN
British parliamentarians elected opposition Labour MP Betty Boothroyd, 62, as the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons since the post was established in 1377.

Riots of rage

Los Angeles mobs impose their own justice

It took seven days for a jury of 10 whites, one Hispanic-American and one Asian-American to find four white policemen innocent of using excessive force when they arrested black motorist Rodney King in March, 1991. It took just a few hours for anger at that verdict to spill into the Los Angeles streets last week, shattering America's always uneasy racial truce. "I did not expect it to break out so quickly," said L.A. Police Chief Daryl Gates. "I asked the same question: 'Where were the police?' "

When they did respond, police and firefighters found themselves woefully overburdened. At the height of the violence, new fires were reported at the rate of three a minute, and snipers' bullets frequently prevented firemen from fighting the flames. Arriving at mini shopping malls, one of the vandals' favored targets, police cars would scatter the crowds only to have them return to resume the pillage as soon as the police left to respond to other calls.

At times, the wanton arson and looting—which gutted mostly black-owned homes and businesses—diluted the power of the rioters' political message. "If the verdict had been right, none of this would have happened," said one L.A. looter to justify her theft. "It's not stealing. The jury did us wrong."

The violence began in the city's south-central neighborhood. But it soon disregarded boundaries, spreading to bordering communities. As the television images of the fury and devastation were broadcast across the country, violence touched other cities, from San Francisco to Atlanta. And just as it ignored city and state lines, the anger spread beyond black-on-white attacks. Merchants in the city's Koreatown, whose Asian-American community has its own history of edgy relations with blacks, chose to defend rather than desert their stores. Some shopkeepers barricaded themselves inside their businesses and fired at approaching mobs of rioters.

By week's end, when President George Bush mobilized 4,500 federal troops to restore order, the death count in L.A. reached 44, with more than 2,000 injured. Property damage exceeded $600 million. But the causes of the rage—poverty and prejudice—were unlikely to be permanently calmed through force. And for three days in Los Angeles, when the rule of law gave way to anarchy, the hatreds spawned within America's racial cauldron were on fearsome display. □



LARA JO REGAN/AFP/SYGMA



ANWAR HUSSEIN/SYGMA

Beating victim; looting (right): 'It's not stealing. The jury did us wrong.'



MICHAEL SCHUMANN/SABA



MARC CONSTANTIN, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/SABA

'This is how Rodney King felt.'

—rioters, as they stomped on a white man in Atlanta

'I mean, please, we can get along here. Can we stop making it horrible for the older people and the kids? We've just got to. Let's try to work it out.'

—Rodney King's appeal for calm

'I'd feel a lot more secure if they gave me a rifle.'

—firefighter Michael McRea

'Why tear down something you own? We all have to make a living here. I just don't understand it.'

—Miles Taylor, a black resident of Los Angeles

'We are going to take back the streets from these thugs and hoodlums who have used this unrest as an excuse to loot and kill.'

—Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley



JOHN SIDEY, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER/SABA

(Clockwise, from top left) Firefighters battling blaze during the first night of L.A. riots; an unsuccessful chase of a suspected looter through the city's downtown; riot police threatening an angry crowd. the causes of the rage—poverty and prejudice—were unlikely to be permanently calmed through force



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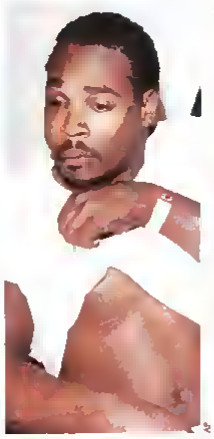
Justice in Courtroom 212

Blacks say that the system works against them

The acquittal of four white Los Angeles policemen in the beating of unemployed black construction worker Rodney King aroused anger among black Americans towards their country's justice system. Although blacks comprise slightly more than 12 per cent of the U.S. population, they make up over 45 per cent of inmates in state and federal prisons, leading many to argue that the system is weighted against them. Following the L.A. verdict, Maclean's Washington Correspondent Hilary Mackenzie visited the District of Columbia's Superior Court to gauge the mood. Her report.

Christopher Smith, black, 22, and from Harlem, New York City, sat nervously in the small waiting room outside Courtroom No. 212. It was two days after the acquittal of the four Los Angeles policemen in the celebrated Rodney King case, and Smith, accused of assaulting a policeman, was awaiting the verdict on his own encounter with the American justice system. The son of a policewoman and a fireman, Smith said that he had wanted to be a policeman since childhood—to "wear the blue," as he put it. And he had recently been accepted into New York's police academy.

But last September, while Smith visited Washington, a female companion became embroiled in a nightclub brawl. When police arrived to break up the disturbance, according to Smith's version of events, he merely protected his friend from the repeated blows of an officer's fists. Now he had to defend his innocence under what he called "the white man's system." Sitting beside him, Smith's court-appointed lawyer, Irvin Foster, agreed. "It's so difficult to prove. Everyone believes the cops," said Foster. "When you are forced to call a police officer a liar, the system is stacked against you." And the legal establishment, said Smith, had convinced him to abandon his dream of becoming a policeman. "The system doesn't work for blacks," he said. "I wouldn't want to be part of that and put someone through what these guys are putting me through—the lies and the disappointments."



King: frustration

Smith's fear and frustration over his fate demonstrated the powerful impact that the King case had on the mood of the nation's blacks. It dominated conversations in the courthouse, where Charlotte Brookins, a black lawyer and foreman of the jury in Smith's case, said she had been embarrassed to wear her juror's badge that morning. "I felt very ashamed to walk down the street with a badge with the word 'Juror' on it," she said. "I felt ashamed to be part of the system that could let people go free who have done very egregious things to another human being, things that I wouldn't even do to a dog."

Several blocks away, in the northwest section of Washington that was the scene of searing race riots in 1968, 10 black males stood around a concrete table while some of them played gin rummy. "They should put those white policemen in the gas chamber," said Mikey Scott, 32. Fresh bloodstains on the pavement nearby were an unsettling reminder of a recent drug-related shootout. But that was not what disturbed the group. Said 19-year-old car salesman Peter Davis: "For me, being black in America, I ain't got nothing coming. I ain't got no rights."

In another neighborhood four kilometres away, torched, boarded-up buildings permanently scar the landscape. Though the capital remained calm last week, black activists there were handing out flyers calling on people to close the city down in protest against the L.A. verdict. A one-storey brick building, which housed the National Guard during the 1968 riots, now houses a radio station dubbed the "Voice of the Community." Station manager Cathy Hughes organized the protest by distributing pamphlets and fielding telephone calls, but urged local black residents not to destroy their own neighborhood. "We're going to close the city down," said Hughes. "We're not going to burn our community and live with the ashes for another 25 years."

Back at the courthouse, Christopher Smith was facing his own showdown with the legal system. It took less than an hour for the 12-member, racially mixed jury to find him innocent. "I was so scared up there, I was petrified," said a relieved Smith after he heard the decision. But many American blacks last week were clearly unwilling to accept a not-guilty verdict on their country's justice system. □



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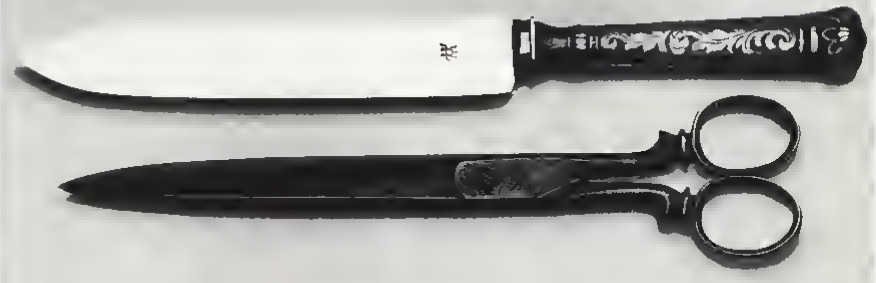
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GERMANY

A one-two punch

Troubles plague Europe's strongman

Across Europe last week, bewildered spectators were wondering what had suddenly gone wrong with stable, reliable Germany. Public-sector employees launched a crippling strike in the western half of the country, refusing to operate trains and buses, collect garbage or deliver mail. At the same time, veteran foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the architect of German reunification, stunned the nation by announcing his resignation after 18 years in the post.

Those two events dealt a staggering blow to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrat-led coalition government, which was already reeling from losses to two far-right parties in April 5 regional elections. The timing of the German upheaval took place as its European neighbors struggled to overcome the recessions that have gripped their economies. Said Rosalind Stevens-Stroehmann, an analyst at Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs: "I've always had this fear that if Germany goes down, we all go down with it."

The 1.3-million-member Public Services and Transport Workers Union, known by its German initials ÖTV, called the strike to back demands for a 9.5-per-cent pay increase. Union leaders said that the raise would compensate workers for the country's 4.8-per-cent inflation rate and for tax increases that were imposed last year to aid formerly Communist East Germany—the cost of which could reach $1 trillion by the end of the decade. But the federal government offered a 4.8-per-cent increase, arguing that any larger amount would heighten inflation. As the dispute worsened, the powerful deutsche mark plunged on currency markets. As a result many economists predicted that the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, would have to raise interest rates—an action that they said could slow down the the continent's economic recovery.

The chaos deepened by midweek when 196,000 metalworkers staged lightning walkouts in sympathy with the public employees. And with neither side showing signs of concession, Germans braced for a lengthy, and unaccustomed, disruption of social services.



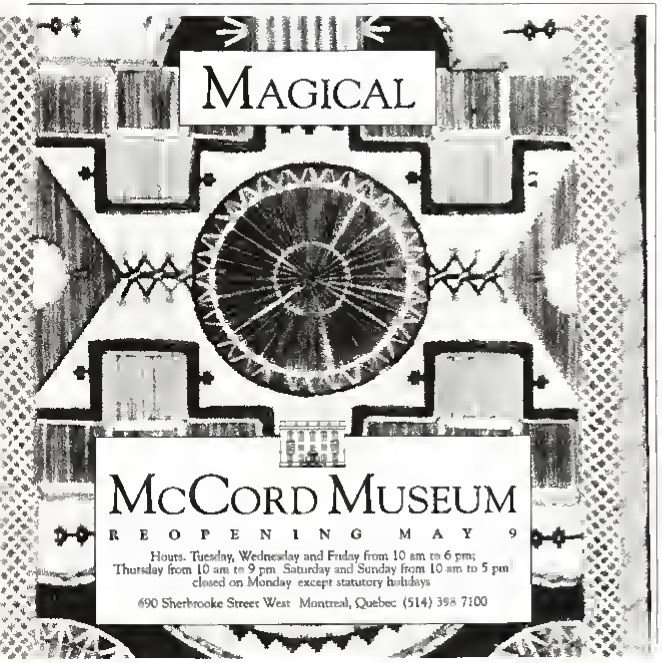
Kohl: a shaky coalition

Meanwhile, Genscher's surprise resignation added to the political confusion. The world's longest-serving foreign minister and Germany's most popular politician, Genscher, 65, offered no clear explanation for his decision to step down. But the resignation, set for May 17, led to a bitter power struggle over his successor in the centre-liberal Free Democratic Party, a junior partner in Kohl's coalition government. The FDP has filled the foreign minister's post since 1969, and Kohl agreed that the portfolio should remain with the party. But when FDP Leader Otto Lambsdorff nominated Housing Minister Irmgard Schwaetzer to replace Genscher, his own party members revolted. Instead, they chose Justice Minister Klaus Kinkel, who is expected to maintain Genscher's foreign-policy course.

The struggle for control of what is arguably Europe's highest profile diplomatic post led some analysts to predict that Germany's 10-year-old coalition government may collapse. One sign: the Free Democrats last week broke coalition ranks and joined the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) in resisting the government's efforts to tighten Germany's asylum laws—one of the most explosive issues facing the reunited country. A record influx of foreigners, many of them fleeing economic upheaval in Eastern Europe, has fuelled a German backlash by neo-Nazis and led to the far-right victories in the April regional elections. They shocked the political establishment, which agreed that the asylum problem had to be defused quickly to deny neo-Nazis and other rightists further influence.

With strikes paralysing the country and the ruling coalition airing its differences in public, the Social Democrats called for Kohl to hold an early election. Opinion polls released last week showed that he would lose to SPD Leader Bjoern Engholm if a national election, due by the end of 1994, were held immediately. Said SPD deputy leader Rudolf Dressler: "The people have been lied to and the government now has no answers to the pressing questions." Barely 18 months after the euphoria of reunification, Germans last week were pondering an uncharacteristically rocky future.

ANDREW BILSKI *with* JOHN HOLLAND *in Berlin*



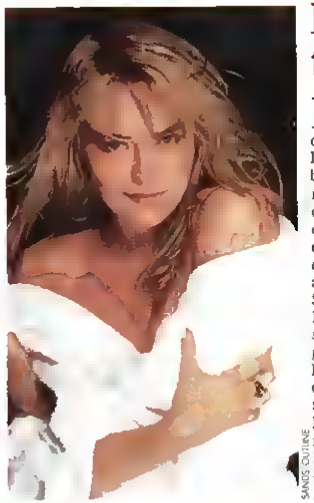
PEOPLE

A PORTRAIT OF ROYALTY

Portrait artist Cyril Leeper has painted premiers, chief justices and lieutenant-governors. But Leeper says that his greatest challenge is yet to come: the Royal British Legion has commissioned him to paint Queen Elizabeth II in her royal military garb this summer. "The Queen is a big horse fan, so I would like to do an equestrian portrait," Toronto-born Leeper told *Maclean's*. However, there will be no horsing around. Leeper will be schooled in royal protocol and will be allowed only six 2½-hour sessions with Her Majesty. And while he says that he is a bit nervous, Leeper, 42, added: "I won't be a fool in front of the Queen."



Leeper: won't be 'a fool in front of the Queen'



Stone: 'a big farm girl'

From ice picks to pitchforks

In the hit movie *Basic Instinct*, **Sharon Stone** plays the part of a manipulative temptress who lures **Michael Douglas** to her bed, even though he is a policeman who suspects her of murder. But in real life, the green-eyed blonde is more down to earth. Despite having glamorous careers as a model and then as an actress, 34-year-old Stone, who grew up in the small Pennsylvania town of Meadville, still calls herself "a big farm girl." Now, Stone, who divorced her first husband in 1987, is dating country-and-western-music heartthrob **Dwight Yoakum**, 35. Said Stone: "He's an incredibly smart, very sexy guy. Hell of a lot of fun."

The dame game

For her first one-woman show, Saskatchewan-born actress **Deborah Theaker** has created a cast of quirky female characters she calls "dames"—including 19th-century author **Emily Brontë** as a consumptive comedian suffering from stage fright. "Dames come in all creeds, colors and cup sizes," Theaker, 30, said last week. "Everyone has one in their family." The comedian, best known as Casey Edson, the sensible wife of an eccentric inventor on the hit TV series *Maniac Mansion* says that she is not used to performing alone, adding: "This show is something of a rite of passage."



Theaker: 'all colors and cup sizes'

COMPUTER QUANDARY

Science-fiction guru William Gibson achieved cult status in 1984 with his neuron-twisting "cyberpunk" novel,* Neuromancer. *Now, he is at it again.* Agrippa: A Book of the Dead *is a mind-bending collaboration with artist Dennis Ashbaugh that Vancouver-based Gibson describes as "information encrypted in an object that looks like a laptop computer." The piece, which features etchings that mutate when exposed to light and a computer disc that self-destructs after one reading, will cost a hefty $1,800 for a first run of 95. While Gibson, 44, disclosed only that the disc will not contain "the kind of text people expect," he added that he hopes it is pirated. Said the bespectacled author: "It's simply going to require the concentration of a dozen 15-year-old hackers."

Stranger than nonfiction

After extensive plastic surgery and an acrimonious divorce from real estate tycoon Donald Trump, high-socialite Ivana Trump has a new look—and a new book, *For Love Alone*. The novel, written with help from scriptwriter Camille Marchetta, traces the problems of Katrinka Graham, a Czech who, during the Cold War, skies her way to freedom, marries an American shipping magnate and runs a series of top-notch hotels. Although Donald Trump has threatened to sue, claiming that the plot is autobiographical and, as a result, breaches their divorce agreement, Ivana Trump, 43, told *Maclean's* that it is "simply a love story." Added Czech-born Trump, who fled her homeland for Toronto in 1973: "When somebody threatens you, you don't just lie down and die." The sequel is finished and will be released in September, 1993.



Trump: 'simply a love story'

SQUEEZE PLAY

THE REICHMANNS FACED RENEWED PRESSURE TO SELL OFF ASSETS AND PRODUCE A NEW FINANCING PLAN

Swarms of corporate financiers in dark suits jostled with cardigan-clad individual shareholders for seats at the annual meeting of Gulf Canada Resources Ltd. in Toronto last week. And although Gulf's largest investors, the Reichmann brothers, were conspicuously absent, they cast a long shadow over the gathering. As the owners of the financially distressed real estate company Olympia & York Developments Ltd. of Toronto, the Reichmanns are struggling under mounting pressure from their creditors to sell off assets, including their 75-per-cent stake in Gulf, to reduce their $14.3-billion corporate debt. But while they remained coy about the fate of Gulf, the Reichmanns used that company's annual meeting to convey the message that O&Y's 65-per-cent stake in Home Oil Ltd. of Calgary, owned in conjunction with Gulf, *is* on the auction block. Its sale could raise more than $600 million in sorely needed cash.

But Gulf's annual meeting was one of the few things that went according to the script for the Reichmanns last week. Despite earlier indications that Ottawa and Queen's Park would undertake loan guarantees to amonth O&Y's financial restructuring, sources in both governments last week appeared to rule out any assistance. As the governments backed away from a proposal to help refinance the Exchange Tower in downtown Toronto, a group of creditors who are owed about $140 million secured by a mortgage on the building threatened to plunge O&Y into bankruptcy if it did not repay the debt by mid-month.

The company also came under pressure from its international bankers last week to present a new interim refinancing plan for the $7-billion Canary Wharf project in London. The banks have been reluctant to provide O&Y with the $230 million it has requested to keep its operations at the giant project afloat. Then, as O&Y's strategists continued their scramble to raise new cash, Robert Campeau, the former chairman of the bankrupt real estate and retail conglomerate Campeau Corp., sued O&Y for $1.25 billion for alleged breach of promises.

The prospects for this week were equally glum. On May 4, a $26-million interest payment falls due on a $475-million bond program for First Canadian Place in Toronto. O&Y is already in arrears on bond and mortgage payments of about $1.5 billion, and it was not expected to meet its Canadian Place obligations. The company has already called a meeting for May 19 of the bondholders for 55 Water Street in New York City, who are owed $647 million. It is expected to appeal to them to defer a $41-million interest payment due on June 30.

As well, this week, the restive Exchange Tower commercial paper holders will gather to plan their strategy for a confrontation with O&Y executives on May 20 in Toronto. Under the terms of the trust agreement, if 25 per cent of those investors declare O&Y in default on the debt, they can claim Toronto's Exchange Tower and its rental income. The paper holders have grown increasingly frustrated over the past week, vocally criticizing the program's trustee, Royal Trustco Ltd., owned by Trilon Financial Corp. of Toronto, for its slow response and O&Y for its failure to provide updated information.

Still, the gathering storm may not produce a bankruptcy thunderstroke for the Reichmanns. For one thing, it is doubtful that a forced sale of the Exchange Tower would quickly raise the cash that the creditors are demanding. According to a report issued by the Dominion Bond Rating Service Ltd. of Toronto, the building, appraised at $473 million in 1990, would raise only about $300 million on a distress-sale basis. The rating report notes that about 15 per cent of the building's 881,000 square feet of leasable office space is vacant, and estimates that it would take up to six months to find a buyer for the property. Said one pension fund manager on condition of anonymity: "It's a real 'gotcha' for investors. They don't have many alternatives to being patient."

As O&Y's creditors exert more pressure, company executives are being forced to contemplate the sale of some assets—including real estate—that the Reichmanns have said in the past they would never dispose of. Some sales could prove complicated because many O&Y holdings are pledged as collateral for its debt. But O&Y did manage to raise $65 million in April with the sale of a 7.13-million share block in Trilon to the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan Board. Through the restructuring and sale of its interests in Interprovincial Pipe Line Co. Ltd. of Edmonton, O&Y acquired another $335 million in special dividends.

The company also has a 35-per-cent stake in Canadian real estate developer Trizec Inc. of Calgary. But according to Ross Cowan, an investment analyst with Levesque Beaubien Inc. in Toronto, the uneasy real estate climate—worsened by O&Y's troubled condition—has depressed the value of Trizec's shares. In addition, only about 10 per cent of O&Y's Trizec holding is available for a quick sale: the remaining 25-per-cent block is subject to a complicated voting trust partnership agreement with Trizec's parent company, Carena Properties Holdings Inc. of Toronto. Added Cowan: "It's not easy to unwind so it's not easy to liquidate."

As potential sources of ready cash, O&Y's investments in Gulf and Abitibi-Price Ltd. of Toronto are also questionable. O&Y was able to dispose of its 64-per-cent investment in Interprovincial Pipe Line by selling the shares to the public through a syndicate of 12 investment dealers, solving the problem of finding a single buyer large enough to absorb 25.2 million shares. Although a similar approach might also work with Abitibi and Gulf, both companies are in the throes of corporate overhauls in reaction to sharp cyclical downturns in their businesses.

For its part, Gulf withdrew from the Hibernia oil megaproject last February and mothballed its Arctic exploration program to conserve cash and focus on more easily recoverable oil reserves.

But one of O&Y's missteps in the Canadian Oil Patch may soon turn to its advantage. When it acquired its two-thirds stake in Home Oil as part of a complex transaction in 1990, O&Y planned to merge Home with Gulf, creating the third-largest oil producer in Canada. That plan was scuttled, however, by Home's minority shareholders. And in the past year, oil analysts say, Home has steadily reduced its debt and worked to maintain its base of western Canadian oil and gas production. By the end of 1991, its assets were valued at about $1.5 billion.

At least one suitor has already expressed an interest in Home. Bow Valley Industries Ltd. of Calgary, which is controlled by British Gas PLC. A sale to British Gas could be made easier by the fact that the U.K. company is a partner with Gulf in a Russian oilfield project. Also smoothing the sale is a recent change in federal policy—lifting restrictions on foreign acquisitions of Canadian oil and gas assets.

The $800 million that a successful sale of Home could pump into O&Y's accounts would go a long way towards reassuring the Reichmanns' increasingly agitated creditors. But it will have to take place soon if it is to forestall the looming deadlines set by the family's creditors.

DEIRDRE McMURDY



Albert Reichmann (left) and Campeau in 1988: appeals for deferrals of debts

Business Notes

MIXED SIGNALS
Canada's economy grew slightly in February for the second month in a row, a sign that the country may be inching out of the recession. The nation's gross domestic product grew by 0.1 per cent in February, and Statistics Canada revised its estimate for growth in January up to 0.2 per cent from 0.1 per cent. Despite that growth, a record 7,057 consumers and businesses declared bankruptcy in March.

THE PRICE OF SOUL
Soul singer James Brown filed a $12-million lawsuit against the U.S. subsidiary of Toronto-based Molson Breweries for using his 1965 hit song *I Got You (I Feel Good)* in a U.S. television commercial. The company obtained permission to use *I Feel Good* from the record company and from the music publisher who now own the rights to the song. But Brown argues that advertisers must also obtain permission from the original artist.

BIG THREE BOUNCE BACK
Beleaguered General Motors Corp. of Detroit surprised many automotive analysts by reporting a modest first-quarter profit of $214.3 million. The world's largest automaker lost a record $5.4 billion last year, leading chairman Robert Stempel to announce layoffs and plant closures. Rival Ford Motor Co. also moved back into the black, earning a profit of $404 million, although its Canadian subsidiary lost $116 million. Chrysler Corp. lost $15.5 million, but that was substantially less than its $715-million loss during the same quarter last year.

MOUNTIES MOVE IN
The RCMP launched an investigation into the bankruptcy of the Bargain Harold's discount department store chain. Several unpaid former suppliers to the chain, who stand to collect nothing if Bargain Harold's is liquidated, allege that store executives authorized large payments to suppliers and companies owned or operated by relatives just before the chain went into receivership in February. RCMP officers said that they intend to question former chairman Dean Muncaster and other company officials about the payments.

EXXON EXECUTIVE VANISHES
A high-ranking executive with U.S. oil giant Exxon Corp. disappeared mysteriously from his mansion in Morris County, N.J., leaving his car running in the driveway. Local police and FBI agents immediately launched a manhunt for Sidney Reso, 57, president of Exxon Co. International, Exxon's overseas division.

GENIUS AT WORK

William Gates III, at 36 the richest man in the United States, casually tossed two tightly packed travel bags down at the front of Gate 23 in Chicago's O'Hare airport, turned on his heel and walked back down the long terminal to a taco stand. After finishing his snack, he browsed through a magazine rack while he waited for his boarding call. At the suggestion that his luggage might not be there when he returned to the gate in half an hour, Gates looked surprised. "My bags never get stolen," said the unfazed multibillionaire, adding confidently: "It would be too much of a coincidence, ton random." Some associates have called Gates's cocky assurance in his own powers of logic a sign of arrogance, others wave it off as no more than characteristic bluntness. But when the president of Microsoft Corp. of Seattle, the world's most profitable creator of computer software, returned to the boarding gate, his bags were lying exactly where he had dumped them.

Gates has considerable justification for self-confidence: the company he founded with high-school chum Paul Allen in 1975 is now the most successful in its field on earth, with offices in 28 countries and annual sales of $2.1 billion. Gates's personal stake in Microsoft, one-third of its stock, is $7.3 billion. Canada's richest man, newspaper tycoon Kenneth Thomson, by comparison, is worth $7 billion. Gates's self-assurance, however, transcends his net worth. Asserting that "the mathematical mind is often superior," he recalled his dismay when he failed to rank at the top of his Harvard University mathematics class in 1973. Recounting the occasion recently during an extended interview with *Maclean's*, Gates acknowledged that two classmates had outscored him. "It kind of confused me that there were people who actually were better at math than me," he said. "It was a new data point."

HE IS THE RICHEST MAN IN AMERICA, BUT CAN WILLIAM GATES STAY ON TOP OF THE HEAP?

The data points that Gates has established since then are impressive by any measure, however. Gates is the king of software: Microsoft's MS-DOS computer-operating system is used in 90 per cent of the personal computers in the world. "Business strategy is interesting," he said of the accomplishment. "It is the intersection of business and technology, and there are surprisingly few people who can combine the two."

But now some competitors have begun to wonder if Microsoft's streak of phenomenal success is ending. They point to signs that suggest Gates's cockiness could be turning into an ego problem. In particular, detractors note his open sniping at computer-industry giant International Business Machines Corp., whose adoption of MS-DOS as the standard operating system for its personal computers launched Microsoft on its most important success. "He didn't need to declare war on IBM," commented Philippe Kahn, president of Scotts Valley, Calif.-based Borland International Inc., in an interview with *The New York Times* after Microsoft's falling-out with IBM last year. "That will turn out five years from now to look like his biggest mistake," Kahn added. "That's ego."

Still, Gates has enjoyed immense success by relying on his own judgments so far. The son of a prominent Seattle lawyer, Gates first combined business and his quick grasp of technology at 16, when his Seattle high school paid him and Allen $2,400 to write a program to arrange class schedules. It was at the same institution, Lakeside Preparatory School, that he had first met Allen when they spent long hours together working in the school's new computer room.

But when Gates started college, he seemed ready to leave computers behind. After enrolling at Harvard in 1973, he repeatedly changed his mind about his academic future, shifting from mathematics to economics to law. For the most part, he scorned computer science courses because, he says, he already knew more than many of the professors. "I was a little bit insufferable," Gates recalled. "I took this very advanced computer class and there were all these graduate students in computer science. I would sit there and wait until they all agreed on something stupid and then, in a very sarcastic way, I'd tell them that they were wrong."

Catalyst: Gates soon decided that Harvard itself was expendable. The catalyst for that decision was a visit that Allen made to Gates in 1974, when Gates was a sophomore. Allen urged him to leave university so that they could form a partnership to develop software. He argued that if they waited much longer, the opportunity to enter the infant software industry would be lost. The Altair, as the first PC was called, had just been unveiled on the cover of *Popular Electronics* magazine—but it lacked the basic software it needed to operate. Gates and Allen set out to write the missing programming. Working night and day for eight weeks using the computers at Harvard, they wrote the program to match the Altair's published specifications. The Altair program was the first of a series of successes that Microsoft, established the following year, achieved before Allen left in 1983, after contracting Hodgkin's disease, a form of lymphatic cancer.

In 1980, the young software firm began what was to become a hugely profitable relationship with the colossus of American computing, IBM. At that time, IBM, traditionally the dominant maker of large mainframe computers, was urgently developing a personal computer. The corporate giant was looking for outside help to produce, swiftly, an operating system—the underlying computer software that would be the brains of the planned IBM PC. IBM considered other software companies, but finally settled on Microsoft. It helped that IBM's then-chairman, John Opel, knew Gates's mother, Mary, from their work together on the national board of the United Way charity.



IBM's PC design, including Microsoft's software, quickly became the standard for personal computers, and Microsoft made the most of the linkage. Indeed, without the IBM connection, Microsoft might now be just another small software company searching for a niche. Instead, tens of millions of computer users have learned to use machines based on Microsoft's MS-DOS.

Split: But by the late 1980s, the romance between IBM and Microsoft had soured. In 1985, the two companies began working together to develop for IBM a graphic user interface (the intermediary program that allows PC operators to run such operations as word processing by making selections from on-screen menus, rather than by entering keyboard commands). At the same time, Gates's company continued its own work on a similar product, Windows, which is based on Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system. Gradually, the two companies began to disagree about how the next generation of software should evolve. Last year, the split seemed complete when IBM announced that it was joining forces with Apple Computer Corp. of Cupertino, Calif., to work on some joint projects. In the end, Microsoft's Windows reached the market two years before IBM released its own interface program, OS/2. Windows continues to outsell its late-arriving rival by 9 to 1.

Gates now speaks with disdain of his old patron. Asked if he once aspired to be the "IBM of software," Gates said: "I did not say that, ever. It is such a terrible thing to say. IBM has a lot of problems." In fact, although IBM's revenues and assets are far larger than Microsoft's (IBM had 1991 revenue of $77 billion compared with Microsoft's $2.1 billion), Microsoft was the more profitable last year, despite the recession. Microsoft made a 1991 profit of $546 million, while IBM lost $3.3 billion. Microsoft's stock performance has been even more dazzling: one Microsoft share, first issued in 1986 for $29, would now be worth $384.

In fact, Microsoft's rise has been so meteoric that some analysts say that it may now have nowhere to go but down. At the very least, Microsoft has set a pace of growth that it can hardly sustain indefinitely. In the past 18 months, the company has almost doubled in size to 10,700 employees from 5,635 at the end of 1990.

Certainly, Gates will need to be even more visionary and nimble than he has been in the past if Microsoft is to stay on top of the quickly evolving market for new computer products. Among them are technologies that allow users to electronically write directly onto a screen, voice-activated computers and multimedia networks that link computer terminals to everything from telephones and fax machines to video cameras and animation libraries (page 40). Gates is plainly aware of the scale of the challenge. "Gravity is always pulling you down towards normalcy, which is mediocrity," he said. "Very few companies stay out of gravity's grasp for as long as we have. The bigger you are, the harder it is."

Neat: Unlike many of his Silicon Valley contemporaries, including Apple Computer Inc. co-founder Steven Jobs, who turned technical breakthroughs into early business successes but then left the companies that they had created, Gates shows no signs of losing interest in Microsoft. He says that he intends to stay at the company's helm for at least another five to 10 years. Although Gates has had several girlfriends and the new house he is building has four children's bedrooms, America's wealthiest bachelor says that he does not plan to marry or have children for at least another five years. But Gates insists that he does not measure his success in purely commercial terms either. His own definition of success, he said, is more personal. "If I come up with a good idea—if one of the smart people I work with says, 'Wow, that's a neat idea.'"

Despite his impressive net worth, Gates is developing a

reputation for personal and professional frugality. He is a tough boss who expects his employees, most of them young, to work long hours and offer near-total devotion to their employer. At the same time, Microsoft has a reputation for paying lower salaries than other computer companies. On the other hand, Gates noted that a company stock-option plan has created more than 100 millionaires among Microsoft employees—on paper, at least.

Grimy: Gates disputes a published report that he once stalled a grocery checkout line while he fished in his pockets for a 50-cents-off coupon to buy a carton of ice cream, keeping the line waiting for so long that someone behind him finally gave him two quarters. "It never happened," Gates said, his voice working up the register towards a high-pitched whine. "In fact, I don t think 7-11s even take coupons. I should check that out maybe I could prove that it is not true." A few minutes later, however, at a fast-food outlet at O'Hare, the richest man in America complained—politely—to the girl behind the counter for charging $1.65 for a small Pepsi.

The eccentric billionaire, whose grimy glasses and dandruff-frosted jacket bear out reports of his disregard for personal appearance and even hygiene, does have one stunning extravagance: the house that he is having built in the Seattle suburb of Medina. The structure, which has been under construction since 1991, will be 46,000 square feet when complete. The $12-million dwelling will occupy a site that includes such distinctive West Coast luxuries as its own salmon run. But, more in keeping with the source of the wealth that is underwriting its construction, the building's interior will be loaded with some of the futuristic electronic gadgetry that Gates expects will eventually find its way into homes everywhere.



CHRIS SCHWARZ/MACLEAN'S

Gates: 'the mathematical mind is often superior,' says the $7.3-billion man

The decorating plans have run into some obstacles, however. Gates says that he hopes to furnish many of the rooms with high-definition television screens, on which he intends to display, among other things, images of some of the world's most famous works of art. To that end, Gates has made a personal project out of negotiating with some of the great art museums of the world to obtain electronic reproduction rights to their collections. So far, the negotiations have gone slowly, in part, perhaps, because museum directors do not appreciate Gates's habit of describing the masterpieces that he intends to display as "electronic wallpaper."

Gates does admit to admiration for at least one cultural figure: Michelangelo, the Italian Renaissance artist renowned for the breadth of his genius. Indeed, Gates shares one trait with Michelangelo: according to IQ tests, his intelligence is in the genius range. "I score very well on tests," Gates observed. With a laugh, he added: "But I am not sure that means much."

Still, he clearly devotes a great deal of attention to the nature of intelligence—including his own. "Smart people know how to concentrate," he said. "Maybe they can concentrate because they're smart, or maybe they're smart because they can concentrate." Samuel Znaimer, a Vancouver venture capitalist who roomed with Gates during their first year at Harvard, said that Gates was just as intense when he was a student. "He was able to block out all the external noise," said Znaimer, whose brother, Moses, founded Toronto's CITY TV. "He didn't worry about what he was wearing. When he wanted to sleep he didn't care if there was too much light or noise." Gates acknowledges, though, that there are disadvantages to an ability to focus so intensely. For one thing, he says that he could never be a psychiatrist. "I get too attached to problems," he added. "When I start thinking about a problem, I can't get it out of my mind until I solve it. If I was a psychiatrist and people told me all their problems I'd be risking my own sanity."

Gates becomes most animated when he talks about the subject that seems to be closest to his heart. He takes offence at the suggestion that computers perform dull, mundane tasks best. "That's too judgmental," he snapped. "I'd say routine, repetitive things, simple in design but large in scope, mathematical in nature." He finds it perplexing that at chess, a game that requires players to assess many possible combinations of moves quickly, computers still cannot beat the best human competitors. "It's a very strange thing," said Gates, an avid chess player who now loses to the three top chess-playing computer programs. "We have not been able to teach a computer to play chess the way humans do it at all. We teach the computer to do it in a totally brute-force way by looking at all the possibilities. Humans don't do it that way." He added: "Of course, "we don't really understand *how* humans do it."

Swords: Apart from their inability to place a grand master in checkmate, however, computers' potential to transform society absorbs Gates. "They are working for us so well that our economy has become totally dependent on them," he noted. "You couldn't run a stock exchange, an airline company, anything, without computers." But Gates sees less specific, more pervasive benefits as well. He added: "It is empowering to have all that knowledge around. It makes it harder to hide things, to have misunderstandings. They allow you to bridge culture gaps, time zones. This is very positive."

Gates does acknowledge a darker side to the technology that has made him rich. He noted the criticism that the computer conveys unequal benefits. "Some people say that it helps smart people more than it helps others, in the way that swords were a big help to people with long arms," he theorized. "And that's true. But, fortunately, most people have the potential to be very smart if they grow up in the right kind of environment." The cautionary note becomes sharper as Gates considers the future. "For the next 20 years," he said, "computers will be one heck of a tool—but still very much in the service of man." After that, however, "it is possible," Gates speculated, that the relationship could be reversed. "You could get into the problem that computers could entertain people enough that they wouldn't do some of the normal activities that we do now."

Some Gates-watchers dispute his predictive abilities. Robert X. Cringely, for one, the pseudonymous author of a witty new book entitled *Accidental Empires—How the Boys of Silicon Valley Make Their Millions, Battle Foreign Competition and Still Can't Get a Date*, says that the eccentric young billionaire is simply out of touch with reality. Declared Cringely: "Bill is at a terrific disadvantage because he doesn't really know any real people. He sees folks all around him every day who are addicted to computers."

Despite his genius-level IQ and sometimes abrasive arrogance, Gates reveals a touchingly human ambition for the second half of his life. Having achieved such phenomenal success in the first half, Gates said that his goal now is simply "to try to avoid anticlimax." Laughing, he added: "You know what they say: 'They used to all hate him because he was so successful. Now, they all like him, he's such a God damned failure.' " As he wandered back down the airport corridor towards his unattended luggage, Gates, for the first time, gave the impression that he harbors at least a few doubts about his abilities. But as he picked up his bags, his confidence quickly returned. Failure, after all, simply would not compute.

BRENDA DALGLISH

THE WONDER BOYS HIT MIDDLE AGE

Of the handful of young computer hackers who started the personal-computer revolution in North America 15 years ago, William Gates is the only one whose phenomenal success has not faltered. Several of the others have stepped down from the companies that they helped form to enjoy their multimillion-dollar fortunes. Some of them still dabble in the computer industry. At least one is making a serious attempt to develop a new computer that will rival the importance of the Apple II. Gates remains firmly entrenched as king of the hill.

PAUL ALLEN

- Age: 38
- Net worth: $3.5 billion
- Claim to fame: co-founder of Microsoft Corp.
- Now: owner of the Portland Trail Blazers basketball team; president of Asymetrix Corp., a small software company in Bellevue, Wash.

Paul Allen and William Gates became friends in grade school in Seattle when they discovered they shared a common passion for computers and science fiction. Although Gates has displayed the greater flair for business over the years, it was Allen, the shy, soft-spoken son of a library administrator at the University of Washington, who persuaded Gates to drop out of Harvard and start Microsoft. He left the company in 1983 when he developed Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer. Allen has said that the disease, which is now in remission, changed his outlook on the future and made him want a more balanced life. Like Gates, Allen is a bachelor.



JOHN LIKA

Allen: a cancer scare

Allen announced in March that he has formed a company that will carry out long-term, non-commercial research. "There are a number of interesting technologies just over the horizon, but they aren't ready for a typical two-year product cycle," said Allen when he announced the project. "The larger potential of computing is not being realized."

STEVEN JOBS

- Age: 37
- Net worth: $415 million
- Claim to fame: co-founder of Apple Computer Inc.
- Now: founder of NeXT Computer Inc.

In 1970, Steven Jobs met Stephen Wozniak, who later invented the Apple computer, when they were teenagers in Cupertino, Calif. Both were interested in electronics and science fairs, but Jobs also dabbled with recreational drugs and music. By 1974, Jobs had dropped out of university, visited a guru in India and returned home to a job selling video games for Atari Corp.

By the time the first crude machine that could be called a personal computer was featured on the cover of *Popular Electronics* magazine in 1974, Wozniak had already made attempts to build his own. Evidently sensing that there might be a business opportunity in his friend's abilities, Jobs sold his van and persuaded his father to let them use his garage for a workshop. While Wozniak toiled on the computer, Jobs, the marketer, started planning how to sell it, what it should look like and what it should be called. In 1977, they unveiled the sleek, easy-to-use Apple II.

But by 1985, Jobs was pushed out of the company by the man he had brought in to run the day-to-day operations, former Pepsi-Cola marketer John Sculley. Jobs soon founded NeXT Computer Inc., which has produced a sophisticated new computer aimed at university students and academics who need to process and store large volumes of information. But the stylish-looking computer is slow and expensive and has not sold in the numbers that Jobs had hoped.

Jobs is married and has two children.



SCHEFMAN/ONYX

Jobs: garage workshop

STEPHEN (THE WOZ) WOZNIAK

- Age: 41
- Net worth: Unknown—his four-per-cent interest in Apple Computer was worth almost $100 million when he began selling his stock in 1985.
- Claim to fame: invented the Apple computer.
- Now: retired.

Stephen Wozniak is the son of a Lockheed engineer who designed satellites in Cupertino, Calif., in the heart of what has become the home of the personal computer, Silicon Valley. Like Gates, Wozniak dreamed of having his own computer long before it was possible. In 1971, he enrolled in engineering at the University of California at Berkeley. But soon the penniless dropout was using borrowed chips to construct crude computers to impress members of the Homebrew Computer Club that he had formed with fellow enthusiasts.



WILSON/WOODFIN CAMP

Wozniak: borrowed chips

With Jobs's encouragement, Wozniak began working on a commercial model. They created the computer that was so easy to use that even neophytes were not intimidated by it.

Four years after they introduced the Apple II in 1977, Wozniak crashed a small plane that he was piloting and suffered from amnesia. As his memory gradually returned, he took two years off from Apple. The bearded engineer returned to the rapidly growing company for two years before leaving in 1985 for good.

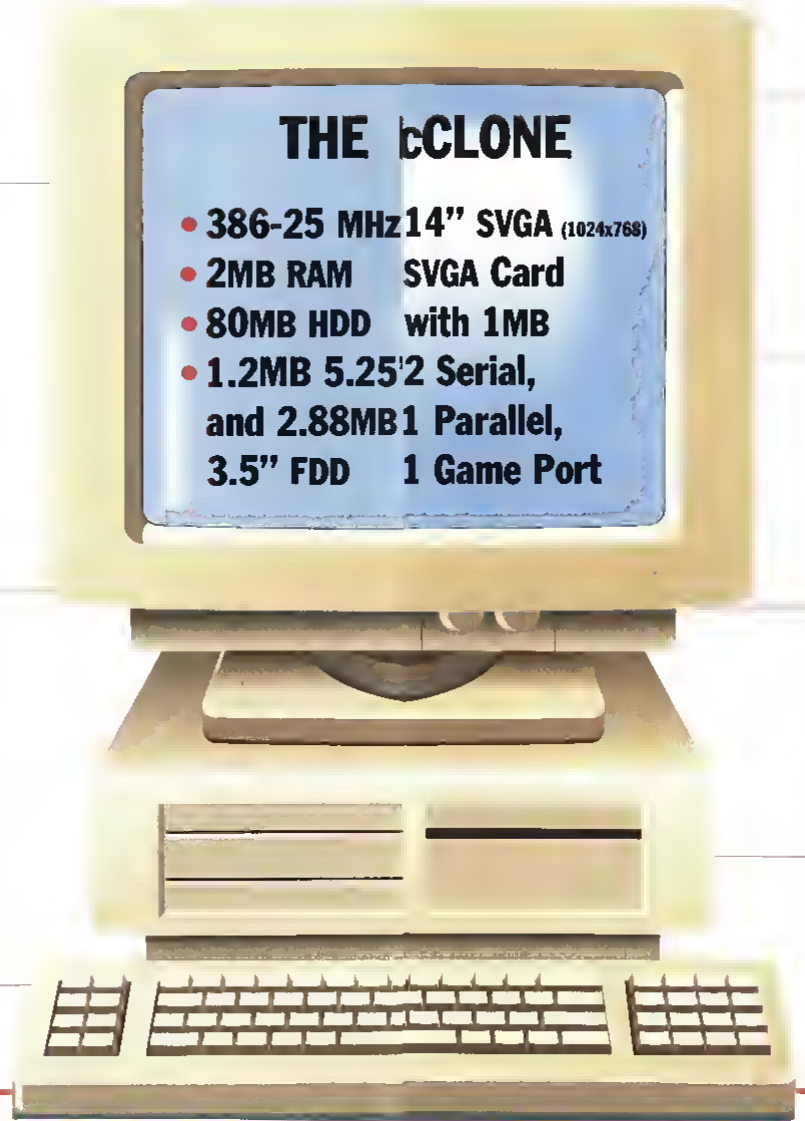
Although he has been involved in some business projects since then, Wozniak has gained attention for a home he built in Los Gatos, Calif. The ranch-style bungalow looks ordinary from the outside, but inside parts of it have been built to look like an authentic limestone cavern with simulated dinosaur footprints, fossils and prehistoric rock carvings. Wozniak is now married to his third wife, an attorney, and they are raising six children.

B. D.

BUYING BY THE SPECS

A GUIDE THROUGH THE TECHNOLOGICAL JUNGLE

Buying a personal computer for the first time often involves difficult choices. Advertisements for PCs frequently consist of little more than a bewildering list of numbers and acronyms familiar only to computer enthusiasts. To illuminate the way through the technological jungle, Maclean's *designed a fictional PC with many typical features. A user-friendly handbook explains the specifications for the imaginary MacClone computer*



• 386-25 MHz

The first specifications listed in a personal-computer ad usually describe the tiny silicon chip that powers the PC. Small enough to fit on the tip of a finger, the chip is like the engine in a car. Chips for most IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers—including Dell, Compaq and Tandy—are in 286, 386 and 486 models, while chips for Apple computers have model numbers that begin at 6800. The higher the model number, the more powerful the chip.

In general, 286-based computers are powerful enough to run programs developed in the 1980s, including the older versions of the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet programs for accounting or the WordPerfect and Microsoft Word writing-editing programs. But if users want a PC that can run newer programs, including Microsoft's Windows 3.1 or IBM's rival OS/2, experts recommend a 386-based machine or higher. Some 286-based machines can take close to a minute to perform complicated tasks with new programs that would take a 386-based machine only a few seconds. While there are a number of 486-based computers, so far there is little software designed for home users that takes full advantage of the 486 machines.

Next to the model number of the machine's chip, advertisements almost always list the speed of the chip in megahertz (MHz), or millions of cycles per second. Technically, a 33 MHz chip is twice as fast as a 16 MHz chip. But for most tasks or procedures that take only a few seconds on any 386 chip, a home user likely would not notice much of a difference.

• 2MB RAM

RAM—random access memory—is the memory that the computer uses to hold words and images that appear on the screen or to perform calculations. The images and data that RAM holds, however, disappear when the user turns off the computer, unless the information is stored on the machine's hard disk drive (HDD) or a floppy disk drive (FDD). Memory is measured in so-called bytes—roughly the amount of memory required to store a single letter or number. 2MB is short for two megabytes, or two million bytes.

1MB of RAM is more than sufficient to run programs introduced in the 1980s, including older versions of the popular WordStar writing-editing programs and the Harvard Graphics illustration programs. But Microsoft, for one, recommends 4MB to run its new Windows 3.1 software. To take full advantage of IBM's more powerful OS/2 program, experts recommend as much as 6MB or 8MB. Indeed, many computer enthusiasts jokingly describe the new software packages as "memory hogs." Moreover, even more memory-intensive software packages are due on the market in the next two years. As a result, experts recommend that users purchase a PC with at least 4MB.

At the same time, manufacturers and experts caution owners of older machines not to panic and trade them in. As an alternative, they note that the memory of most models can be expanded by installing additional components that can increase RAM to as much as 32MB.

• 80MB HDD

HDD is short for hard disk drive, the permanent memory storage inside the computer that retains the unit's basic operating codes and procedures, as well as programs installed by the user, when the PC is turned off. As well, most users keep files and information they work on and update regularly, such as monthly financial records, on the hard drive.

Just as most new programs on the market take up more RAM than older versions, they also take up more storage space on a computer's hard drive. A decade ago, 20MB of space on a hard drive was more than sufficient to store several programs. Now, many users complain that in order to install new software, including word-processing programs that contain entire spelling checkers, dictionaries or thesauri, they have to wipe out others to make room on their hard disk.

A typical home user usually requires at least a word-processing program, a basic graphics program and a spreadsheet or other financial record-keeping program. A rough rule of thumb is that a complete, up-to-date version of each type of program takes up about 10MB of space on the hard drive. As well, most users fill 10MB to 20MB of HDD space with current files. Experts say that a serious home user now needs a PC with at least a 60MB hard drive.

• 1.2MB 5.25" and 2.88MB 3.5" FDD

The acronym FDD is short for floppy disk drive, which stores program information in a transportable form and contains software programs. They are inserted in PC disk drives for the computer to read and absorb the program. In addition, manufacturers encourage users to keep backup copies of programs and data files (the documents, accounts or graphics that they have created on the computer) on floppy disks, in case the programs on the hard disk are damaged or wiped out.

Older IBM-compatible machines usually have one or two 5.25-inch floppy disk drives, capable of holding at least 145 double-spaced pages of text, while newer models and Apple computers have 3.5-inch disk drives, able to contain as many as 1,400 pages. Conveniently, many machines now can accommodate both sizes of disks.

• 14" SVGA (1024x768)

The first number indicates the size of the screen—or monitor. There are two basic types of screens for personal computers, monochrome and color. Monochrome screens can project only a single color of images or characters—usually green, blue or orange—on a black background. VGA, which stands for video graphics array, and higher-level Super VGA screens (SVGA) are the most popular types of color screens. Other common types are the earlier CGA and EGA models. The two numbers that usually follow the monitor acronym refer to the detail, or resolution, of the screen. Like a television set, a computer monitor creates images with hundreds of tiny colored dots—so-called pixels. The greater the number of pixels, the clearer the image. The MacClone's 1024x768 pixel screen is typical of better-model monitors currently on the market.

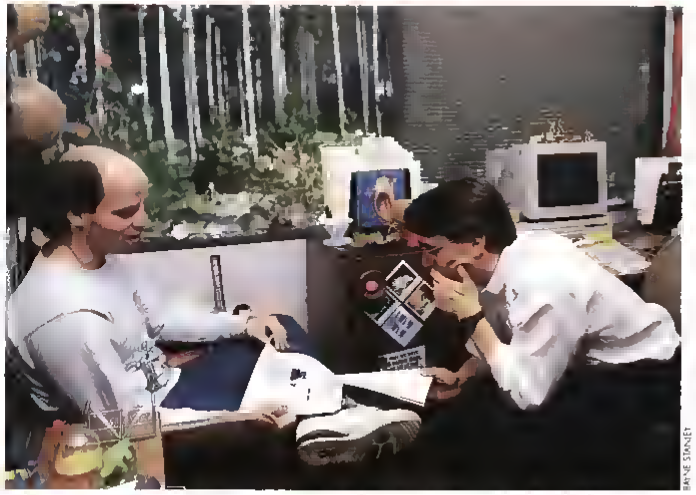
• SVGA Card With 1MB

Inside most personal computers there are slots for add-on cards containing components that can enhance the PC's memory and power to perform specialized tasks. The cards themselves are tiny, wallet-sized circuit boards. One of the most commonly used is the SVGA card, which allows the screen to display an enhanced range of color images. In this case, the card expands the memory of the computer by 1MB to allow the screen to display up to 256 colors at 1024x768 resolution instead of the 16 colors that are standard with SVGA screens. That allows the machine to run advanced versions of such programs as Harvard Graphics and the Canadian-made CorelDraw! software. Other widely used cards enable users to send and receive faxes, link up a network of computers or run several printers at once.

• 2 Serial, 1 Parallel, 1 Game Port

Ports are sockets in the computer that allow the user to connect it to other devices. Most computers come with at least one serial and one parallel port. Parallel ports are generally used to connect a dot-matrix printer or a laser printer. A serial port is required if a user wishes to use a modem to connect the computer over telephone lines to another computer or to widely popular computer "bulletin boards." Serial ports can be used to connect a "mouse" controller to the computer. A game port is needed to connect the so-called joysticks used in many varieties of computer games.

JOHN DALY *with WILLIAM MAKI and CHRIS LEE in Toronto*



BLAKE STOWELL

Microsoft researchers Steve Shor (left) and Michael Metzger: midnight insight

THE MICROCHIP MAGICIANS

RESEARCHERS CHALLENGE THE LIMITS

From the outside, the world headquarters of Microsoft Corp. is deceptively modest. Located in Redmond, Wash., 20 km northeast of Seattle, the headquarters' 22 grey low-rise buildings nestle in immaculately landscaped grounds. Inside, however, offices are cluttered with everything from empty beer bottles to bicycles, as the complex's 4,000 employees strive to transform the latest microchip developments into salable products. Some of Microsoft's programmers have as many as seven computers working at once in their semi-detached cubicles. Others routinely work past midnight in the drive to perfect new technologies. Said John Lazarus, director of systems marketing: "My job as a manager is to throw them out of the offices to sleep."

The feverish pace is partly driven by a host of competitors eager to emulate Microsoft's $2.1 billion in annual sales. But underlying the frantic activity is a shared vision of a future in which computers will be as ubiquitous as electricity. The industry is in an all-out campaign to make the machines ever faster, cheaper and easier to use. Indeed, the ultimate goal is to make computers seem not like computers at all. To that end, users may eventually be able to speak directly to their personal computers, while other machines invite them to enter imaginary, computer-generated parallel realities. A glimpse of the future as the wizards of the microchip envision it:

Multimedia: The goal of multimedia technology is to enable personal-computer users to achieve special effects on their own small screens. One product already on the market permits a user to hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—while following the score on the screen. However, such products are available only in so-called CD-ROM (compact disc read-only memory). Users cannot edit or add to the audio and video components.

There are other limitations. For one thing, multimedia requires massive amounts of computer memory: a single color photograph may occupy 150,000 bytes of memory—as much as 100 pages of text. Still, some of the limitations on multimedia are disappearing. In December, Apple Computer Inc. introduced a software program that compresses a chunk of data when it is stored and decompresses it when the user calls it up again—vastly increasing the effective storage capacity of computers that use the program.

Voice-activated computers: A handful of computers can already recognize spoken words—in limited applications. Some programs enable the PC user to perform simple functions by uttering such one-word commands as "delete" or "save." And some experts predict that before the end of the decade, people will be able to call home and tell their computer to turn on the VCR to record a television show. "You won't even have to say what time or what channel the show is on," said Andrew Toller, an industry analyst for Montreal-based DMR Group Inc., a computer consulting company. "It will get to know your habits."

Apple has taken an important first step in that direction. It has developed a prototype continuous speech recognition system, which has a vocabulary of about 200 English-language words and can understand some short sentences. "You are not carrying on a dialogue," acknowledged Rick Parfitt, a senior research scientist with Apple's advanced technology group in Cupertino, Calif. "But it's still a whole new way of interacting with a computer."

Virtual reality: Participants wear helmets containing screens that show full-color, three-dimensional computer-generated images. The user also wears a glove that is electronically linked to the computer, enabling him to manipulate objects in the make-believe world. One company has started to make the technology an actual reality: W Industries of Leicester, England, manufactures a system for use in video arcades. In one game, Dactyl Nightmare, four players try to find and shoot one another while also trying to avoid being seized by a pterodactyl.

Still, most analysts say that virtual reality will prove most valuable in the professional world. For their part, doctors will be able to practise rare surgical procedures on a virtual-reality patient before attempting the operation on a live one. The main drawback so far is that the images are too grainy and cartoon-like. But making the images more realistic requires so much computing power that it slows down the reaction time between what the user tells the computer to do with the glove and the action appearing on the screen.

Still, even if the timetable for the introduction of the most ambitious of the new technologies slips, what appears certain is that the computer revolution continues—and with it, the changes that the microchip is producing at so many levels of everyday life.

BARBARA WICKENS *with* **ANNE GREGOR** *in Redmond*

A 'NERD' IMAGE PROBLEM

CANADA FACES A SHORTAGE OF PROGRAMMERS

At nine years old, Robert Farrell already has a musical composition to his credit, a one-minute score that he has titled *Robot*. And although the name is predictable, how he wrote the piece is unusual: he did it on an electronic keyboard connected to a Macintosh computer. What is even more unusual is the school that he attends. Farrell is a Grade 4 student at River Oaks Public School in Oakville, Ont., west of Toronto. There, 625 students from kindergarten to Grade 8 spend up to 70 per cent of their time doing projects on the school's 220 Macintoshes and other computer equipment. Although they still read English literature from books, the rest of their resource materials—from encyclopedia in the library to work specifications in the school's design shop, have been computerized. The students are clearly comfortable with the technology. Farrell worked on his composition *after* school on Wednesdays and Fridays for three weeks. "It's fun," he said. Still, according to a recently released federal study, the Canadian economy needs far more workers with programming skills than schools are currently turning out—and far sooner than Robert Farrell will graduate.

Computers are a fact of daily life for almost all Canadians, whether they get cash from a bank machine or send an electronic-mail message to a co-worker. Every computer, meanwhile, needs a software program to function. But according to the Employment and Immigration Canada study *Software and National Competitiveness*, while the demand for people who can design, produce and maintain software is growing steadily, the supply is shrinking as fewer students graduate from computing courses. The shortage of software workers could become so severe, the study claims, that it will affect Canada's ability to compete in the global economy as early as 1995.



BLAKE STOWELL

Ramsay (left): recruiting skilled employees is frustrating and expensive

'Nerd': The shortage can be traced back to the nation's high schools, where computer workers have an unflattering reputation. "The image of the nerd is a major problem," said Anne McKague, national education chairman of the Canadian Information Processing Society, which, along with the Canadian Advanced Technology Association, sponsored the study. As well, university enrolment in software-related courses has dropped by 30 per cent since 1983, to 6,000 students.

Students who are not dissuaded by the negative stereotypes, however, are in keen demand. About 50,000 workers are directly employed in the software industry, and the federal study predicted that demand for their skills will grow by 20 per cent a year for the next three years. The need for people to do in-house computing in other industries, including financial services and government, will grow more slowly. But that sector faces a further problem. Because many of the 100,000 in-house software specialists in Canada have not consistently upgraded their knowledge, their technical skills are rapidly becoming obsolete.

Expensive: As a result, firms that are expanding have difficulty finding new skilled employees. Bruce Ramsay, vice-president of product development for Victoria-based HTS Hi-Tech Systems Ltd., a computer systems developing and consulting firm, said that his company has tried a variety of means to recruit skilled employees. In addition to running advertisements in newspapers across Canada, HTS has hired recruitment firms and worked with university co-operative programs to recruit graduates. "It's very expensive," Ramsay said.

In Eastern Canada, Timothy Alison, president of Maritran Ltd., which develops and distributes educational software programs throughout Canada and the United States, has the same problems. Indeed, Alison said that his Meteghan, N.S.-based company would grow "exponentially" if he could find more skilled workers. "It's my biggest frustration," he said.

Industry spokesmen say that jobs in the industry offer huge potential. Said Catharine Arnston, a software specialist with the Ontario government's trade office in Boston: "There are opportunities worth billions in the United States." She added: "This will grow as the rest of the world becomes more computerized."

And because software has become such an important part of so many products that Canadians make and so many services that they provide, a shortage of software workers can seriously affect the country's ability to compete. Said McKague: "If we lose the capacity to develop and maintain software, we will have to get it elsewhere. The real issue is, what will we be giving away to get it?" Clearly, far more Canadians will have to become as comfortable with the computer age as the students at River Oaks Public School already are.

BARBARA WICKENS



Why Conrad Black feels at home at last

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

As owner of the world's fastest-growing media empire, he has attained a state of grace that lets him capitalize on his own aura

It's a typical week for Conrad Black. On this continent, he's bidding for New York City's *Daily News*, while in London he's preparing to launch himself into television by capturing the franchise for Channel 5, a new network capable of reaching three-quarters of the United Kingdom's population.

Ever since he purchased control of the *Daily Telegraph* group six years ago, the 47-year-old Black has been having the time of his life. He has stitched together a significant media empire (a chain of 260 newspapers in North America, plus the dominant Fairfax properties in Australia as well as *The Jerusalem Post*), and his British acquisition is turning out to have been the buy of the century. (Rupert Murdoch, Black's Australian rival, told a friend that "if it had been known ownership of the *Telegraph* was available, there would have been buyers lined up from London to Adelaide." Robert Maxwell, who drowned mysteriously in November, was all too aware how little money Black actually invested up front, and privately commented that the purchase amounted to "history's biggest fish caught with history's smallest hook.")

Black still loves to drop names ("Had breakfast with Kissinger this morning—he said that the standard of statesmanship is the lowest he's seen in all his adult life"), but the information is offered less as a boast than as a vaguely informative footnote. Significantly, the world's financial and intellectual elite now line up to see *him*, instead of the other way round.

In his position as publisher of what is arguably Britain's most influential newspaper and chief proprietor of the world's fastest-growing media empire, Black has attained a state of grace that finally allows him to capitalize on his own aura. Black has always believed that if he didn't exist, he would have to invent himself. Now, he finally has. The evolution of his theatrical personality reflects his realization that all great stage performances consist equally of reality and sorcery—that the most difficult role is to play yourself. It is only in his current incarnation that Black has discovered the kind of dash and freedom he feels he needs to fulfil his self-imposed destiny.

Black has never been particularly attracted to modesty or felt any ambivalence about being rich and powerful as he strives to become a commercial version of Napoleon Bonaparte. While jealously guarding his reputation by successfully launching libel suits, Black has ruthlessly conquered other men's (media) empires. In the process, he has matured, grown up, become more interesting, less self-obsessed. His imperious bearing is intact, but he no longer seems so mesmerized by his own rhetoric: he can laugh—well, at least chuckle—at himself and occasionally even manages to sound almost modest.

"I feel myself very fortunate," he told me when I visited him in London recently. "I have a position perfectly suited for me that I've worked rather hard for a number of years to design. I do pretty much what I like and don't do very much that I don't like. I don't mean that in a social, hoity-toity way, but I'm personally happy with my lot. I don't want to sound like [former French president Charles] de Gaulle, because I'm under no illusion that Canada is clamoring for me to come back, but I have the impression that my relationship with my countrymen is much more positive than it once was."

Constantly pursuing those intuitive commercial leaps that turn ideas into money, Black keeps advancing, as he puts it, adapting one of his favorite military analogies, "like a platoon of men through a forest, parallel lines moving in various directions." He adds, "Whenever there is a breakthrough, I try to exploit it."

His tactics never worked more brilliantly than his capture and subsequent revival of the *Telegraph*, whose 1.1 million weekday circulation makes it Britain's most popular broadsheet. After putting into place a superb editorial team, he has turned the once-failing paper around, so that its 1991 pretax earnings of $86 million, on revenues of $464 million, are an incredible 29 per cent more than the $67 million he paid to gain control of the company in 1986. Under his guidance, the *Telegraph* has increased in value by an astounding 1,000 per cent. The paper made as much profit last year as all of London's other quality papers put together.

His weekend strategy in combating the higher-circulation *Sunday Times* was to fight Sunday's battle on Saturday. Unlike Canadian newspapers, Saturday editions in Britain were largely afterthoughts. The *Telegraph*'s expanded Saturday paper now carries 2½ times the advertising of the average weekday. Black's next step is to raise money for further acquisitions by spinning off 16 per cent of his 83-per-cent ownership of the *Telegraph* (owned through Hollinger Inc., his holding company), which will raise about $140 million. (Ironically, that's more than double what he paid for his original 58-per-cent stake in the company.) That war chest was recently expanded by Black's sale for $123 million of the 8.8-per-cent stake he had purchased in United Newspapers, a British chain of newspapers. (It was not one of Black's successful deals; he lost about $30 million in the transaction.)

Still, Black has not mellowed in his views of the socialist premier of Ontario. He muses about Bob Rae "sodomizing" his province's economy and even takes on his old pal Hal Jackman for agreeing to become lieutenant-governor under such a "heinous" regime. "Hal takes care of himself," says Black. "If he signs decrees that do savage violence to the financial interests of his friends, at least he'll give us a viceregal wave from the back of his limousine. He's not building barricades for anybody."

Black is uncharacteristically optimistic about Canada's future. ("I recently had three long talks with Bourassa—I've known him since he was first elected with Lesage in 1966—and I've never heard him make such anti-separatist noises in private as he has in the last few months. Unfortunately, he doesn't have the panache to be a galvanizing leader.")

Conrad Black is a happy man. It's a sign of both the color of his politics and his continued love-hate relationship with Canada that his Hollinger Dinner, which has become the Canadian Establishment's most prestigious annual event, is returning to Toronto from London, where it was held last spring. This year's speaker will be one of Black's favorite characters: Richard Nixon.





Deforestation in Brazil: the meeting may fall short of expectations

ENVIRONMENT

Countdown to Rio

The Earth Summit faces numerous disputes

When plans emerged three years ago for next month's Earth Summit meeting in Rio de Janeiro, United Nations officials said that they hoped that the delegates would agree on measures to slow, and eventually halt, damage to the global environment. Since then, preparations for the summit, which is expected to attract at least 60 heads of state and government, including Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, have been beset by disputes. At a series of meetings aimed at preparing key agreements to be signed at the June 3 to 14 conference, officials from about 140 nations failed to agree on specific measures aimed at saving the Earth's climate from potentially disastrous change, cleansing the oceans and preserving the world's forests and other natural habitats from destruction. As well, conference organizers expressed concern about the possibility that President George Bush might not attend the meeting. White House officials said last week that Bush still had not decided whether he would lead the U.S. delegation to Rio or boycott it because of U.S. objections to some of the summit's goals—a decision that could doom the meeting to almost certain failure.

Even if Bush attends, disagreements among participants could prevent the summit from producing significant results. The risk, said Robert Hornung, a researcher for the Ottawa-based Canadian branch of Friends of the Earth, is that the meeting, expected to attract about 20,000 participants and observers from more than 120 nations, will produce only "rhetoric and nonbinding, feel-good statements." In an eleventh-hour effort to make the conference succeed, Maurice Strong, the Canadian businessman and environmentalist who organized it, was barnstorming world capitals last week seeking support from national leaders.

Experts said that prospects for the meeting had been dimmed by disputes, including a refusal by U.S. officials to consider specific targets for halting emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other gases into the atmosphere. Instead, U.S. negotiators agreed last week to a draft treaty that commits signatory nations to reducing emissions by the end of the century on a voluntary basis. Some scientists say that the buildup of manmade gases may lead to a dangerous warming of the Earth's atmosphere. The so-called greenhouse effect, they add, could dramatically change global weather patterns. At the same time, the United States and other industrialized nations have balked at providing the billions of dollars that leaders of developing countries say are necessary to implement proposed environmental reforms.

Despite concerns that the conference might fall short of expectations, U.S. environmentalists mounted a campaign to persuade Bush to attend. A senior state department official told *Maclean's* that there was "at least a 70-percent chance" that Bush would be there. Still, political analysts noted that the conservative wing of Bush's Republican party is strongly opposed to his participation—and the presidential election is on Nov. 3. The conservatives were also pressing him not to sign any agreements that would commit the United States to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. That might lead to a shift away from the traditional use of coal, petroleum and other fossil fuels and raise the need for more stringent emission controls on automobiles and factories, potentially harming the U.S. economy. Said Navroz Dubash, a senior scientist with the Environmental Defence Fund, a New York City-based lobbying group: "It is important that President Bush go to Rio and take with him a meaningful commitment on climate change in particular."

With further pre-summit negotiating sessions scheduled, some experts held out hope that the Rio meeting may yet produce broad agreements. Canadian officials said that an accord might emerge on ways of preserving large areas of tropical rain forest for the sake of the genetic riches, known as "biodiversity," that their trees and plants contain. As well, some analysts said that Washington's decision to support the reduction of greenhouse gases meant in principle that a treaty on climate could emerge at Rio. But Washington continued to reject proposals that would require industrialized countries to reduce CO_2 emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Some environmentalists denounced the U.S. support for a more limited treaty as seriously weakening efforts to control the emission of CO_2 and and other greenhouse gases.

Despite the risk of failure at Rio, some environmentalists said that they still hoped for success. The summit, said Hilary French, a senior researcher with the Washington-based World Watch Institute, is "a critical event" for the environment, because "it is an effort to chart a course for the next two decades." But with time running out in the countdown to Rio, the obstacles to charting a bold new environmental course seemed formidable indeed.

MARK NICHOLS *with* **WILLIAM LOWTHER** *in Washington*

Every Time Industry Chooses Natural Gas, The Lunch Crowd Over At Graham's Landing Seems To Chatter More Contentedly.



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BARRY STANLEY

Vancouver high-school students: a need for a tough set of national standards

EDUCATION

The three Rs—again

A report says that the system needs reform

Next month, thousands of students will graduate from Canadian high schools and, for some, the summer will be only a brief interlude before they enter university. But according to an exhaustive study released last week by the Ottawa-based Economic Council of Canada, 70 per cent of Canada's 2.3 million high-school students will either drop out or not continue their education beyond Grade 12. As a result, said the council's deputy chairman, Caroline Pestieau, many intelligent young Canadians drift from one poorly paid job to another and often end up on welfare. Pestieau added that the council believes the education system must undergo a revolutionary change that would see business and educators team up to design programs that train students to assume a more productive role in the economy. As well, the report urges parents to take more interest in the quality of education their children are receiving. Parents, said Pestieau, "have to be more demanding both of the student and the school."

The council's report, which took two years to prepare, cites a long list of problems that Pestieau, who led the research team, says are eroding the Canadian education system and hampering Canada's economic performance. According to the report, the nation's school system has moved so far away from teaching the fundamentals of reading, writing and mathematics that, during the 1990s, it will produce nearly one million functionally illiterate and otherwise uneducated young people. To reduce that number, the report suggests that provincial education ministries adopt a tough new set of national standards to ensure that all 16-year-olds are fully literate and competent in a basic level of mathematics by the year 2000. And to reduce the nation's 30-per-cent dropout rate in schools, the report suggests that schools move towards programs that combine work experience with education. Said Pestieau, "We would like to see a co-operative system develop where companies would take students out of the class and give them real work to do."

As well, the council called for the establishment of a system of clear educational goals that would bring Canadian standards in mathematics and sciences up to the level of Japan and Germany, the two nations whose students usually stand highest in international rankings. To improve the overall performance of Canada's schools, the report recommends that parents be allowed more flexibility to move their children from elementary and high schools that they believe are not doing a good enough job of teaching.

The Economic Council's report—among the last before the federal government terminates the body later this year—also examines Canada's stubbornly high unemployment rate and argues that the education system is partly to blame. Pestieau said that because Canada is not producing enough skilled workers, the manufacturing sector and the economy as a whole are suffering. In fact, some foreign firms are not locating in Canada, she said, because they cannot find enough suitable workers.

To create a larger pool of skilled workers, Pestieau said that the council believes Canada should consider adopting a system similar to Germany's, which places as much importance on skills training as it does on university education. As a result, German students are offered vocational and apprenticeship training that is tied to the needs of the country's major industries. Said Pestieau: "We have to turn our economy around from a resource-based economy to a high-skill, information-age economy. And that requires changing the education system."

Richard Dodd, president of the Toronto-based Canadian Education Association, a national organization of teachers, administrators and provincial education officials, agreed that sweeping changes are necessary to bring the education system into line with the economic needs of the country. Dodd said that since the 1950s, parental and social pressures have required Canadian schools to take on tasks that have little to do with job training or the teaching of such fundamentals as reading and writing. He said that when schools are asked to teach students about AIDS and social issues, core subjects suffer. Added Dodd: "If you want good readers, you have to increase the amount of time for reading."

Still, there are signs that some of the changes called for in the report are already taking place in parts of the country. Dodd pointed out that the board of education in the Toronto suburb of East York opened the Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute in 1987. Named after the first Canadian in space, the school has about 1,300 students who were selected for their interest in pursuing careers in aeronautics and space science, it is supported by a number of leading corporations.

In British Columbia, the province's NDP government is continuing a program that places more emphasis on the fundamentals of reading and writing at the elementary-school level. At the high-school level, B.C. students are encouraged to begin planning their careers early. Said B.C. Education Minister Anita Hagen: "We want a broad-based system where a person comes out of school with an employment plan." Those are the same goals that the Economic Council wants to see established right across Canada to arrest the nation's dangerous slide into illiteracy and joblessness.

TOM FENNELL

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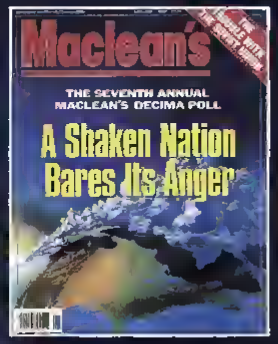
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A new life

A successful mission restores troubled NASA

In the fall of 1990, a bearded astrophysicist named George Smoot received an urgent telephone message in his Tokyo hotel warning that the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration soon would be "pulling the plug" on one of his projects. For Smoot, who was in the Japanese capital to deliver a scientific paper, that terse alert was confirmation of his worst fears: a year after launching the pioneering $240-million Cosmic Background Explorer satellite to investigate the origins of the universe, NASA planned to cut off its funding. Frantic, the senior fellow from the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California flew to Washington. There, he marshalled an array of influential fellow scientists to lobby for the project that last month won global praise for helping to solve one of the enduring mysteries of the cosmos: how the once smooth soup of the universe formed into planets and galaxies 15 billion years ago in the wake of the primordial explosion known as the Big Bang. Said Joel Primack, an astrophysicist from the University of California at Santa Cruz, who was in Tokyo with Smoot at the time: "George was constantly putting out brushfires. NASA is interested in building things—not in science."

In the wake of the worldwide excitement surrounding the findings of Smoot's 18-member team and the cosmic background satellite, that damning indictment seemed particularly paradoxical for the beleaguered space agency that was once considered the shining example of American scientific achievement. In fact, to many of NASA's critics, the dramatic discoveries came not because of, but almost in spite of, the agency. And they saw in Smoot's battles further evidence that it needs a course correction. But in NASA's dingy Washington headquarters, there were palpable sighs of relief. The mission's success could not have come at a better time for an agency in the throes of a management shakeup and tarnished by a series of embarrassing failures. Said Julie Lutz, director of the astronomical sciences division of the Washington-based National Science Foundation: "The success of the satellite mission is very good for NASA."

Indeed, Smoot's breakthrough may help obscure the agency's most notorious recent humiliation. Two years ago, after launching the vaunted $1.8-billion Hubble Space Telescope, designed to view the farthest fringes of the universe free from the distorting effect of the Earth's atmosphere, NASA scientists announced that, instead, it was sending back fuzzy images. Among its myriad technical problems: the contractor had mismeasured the telescope's main mirror, and only three of its six gyroscopes were fully functioning.



The Challenger explosion: embarrassing failures

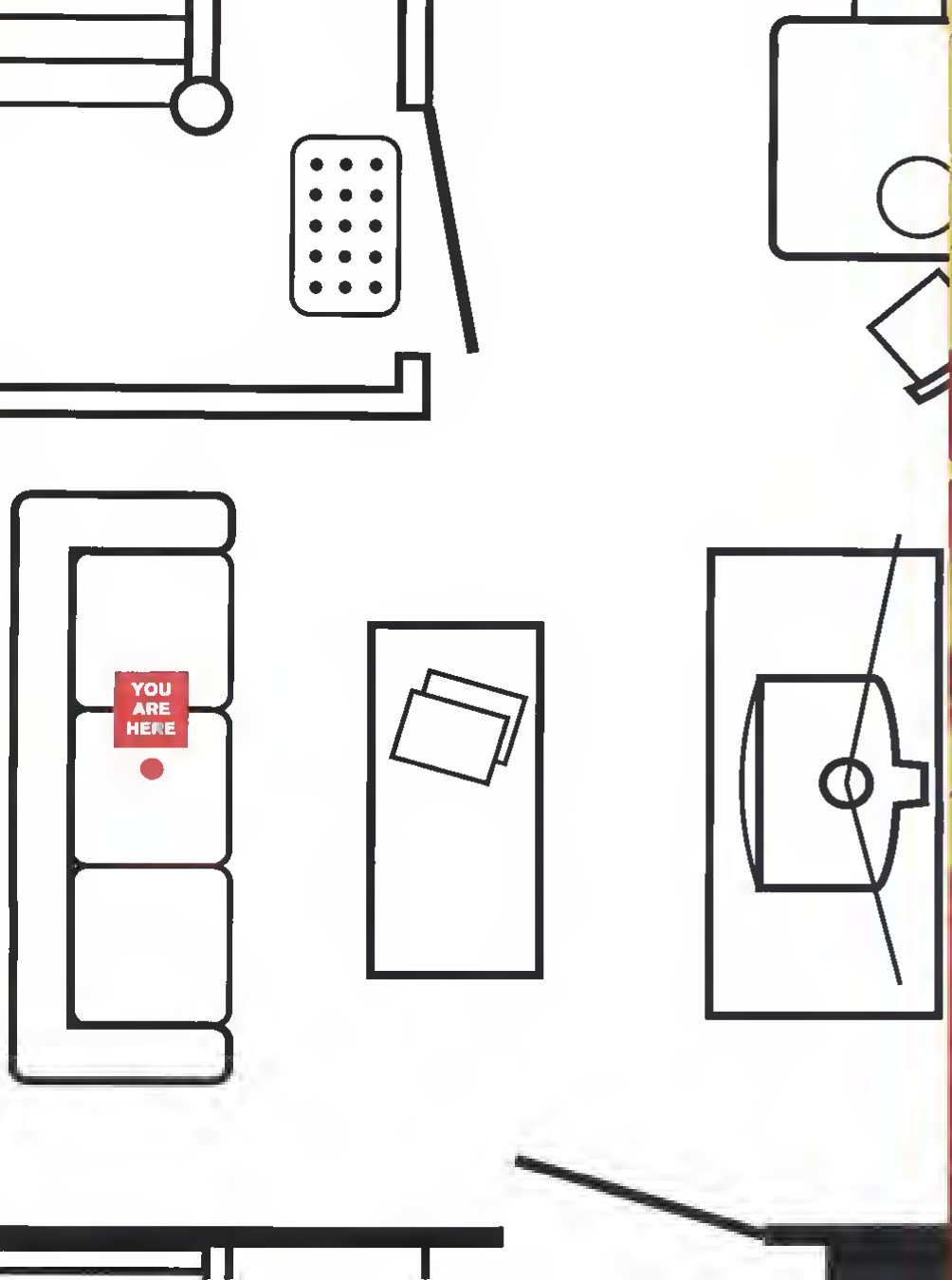
Some astronomers have praised the telescope for offering valuable insights through its other functions. But many blamed the Hubble debacle for President George Bush's abrupt firing of NASA administrator Richard Truly, a former astronaut, in February. Three years earlier, Bush had appointed Truly to resuscitate the demoralized space agency after the 1986 explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

Indeed, NASA itself had seemed star-crossed ever since the Challenger tragedy, which killed all seven astronauts aboard. During a nearly three-year suspension of all manned space flights, NASA lost its monopoly on space as the shuttle program was stripped of the commercial satellite-launching business that had helped underwrite its costs. Then, planned shuttle launches were repeatedly delayed or grounded by a series of mechanical failures that further damaged NASA's image. Some critics, including John Pike, director of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, told a congressional committee that the agency had become overly obsessed with its costly manned space missions, which Pike said produced more splashy headlines than science. Said Tiffany Tyler, Pike's research assistant: "Most of the real scientific discoveries are being made not by the manned programs, but by the unmanned probes, which are relatively inexpensive."

That viewpoint has been shared by Vice-President Dan Quayle, the controversial chairman of the National Space Council, which oversees NASA. As a result, Truly found himself on a collision course with Quayle almost from the moment he took over the space agency. In March, about a month after asking for Truly's resignation, Bush named Daniel Goldin, an executive with California defence contractor TRW Space and Technology Group, to succeed him. But Robert Park, executive director of the Washington-based American Physical Society, voiced many scientists' concerns over the appointment of an outsider, who was viewed as "Dan Quayle's man in NASA."

Goldin has already embarked on a management shakeup. And NASA is currently facing a tough battle over its $18-billion annual budget in Congress. But political exigencies are familiar for the agency founded in 1958, one year after the Soviet launching of the first satellite, Sputnik, set off the superpower space race. In fact, one of the most damaging blows to NASA has been the end of the Cold War, which eliminated the urgency of such scientific one-upmanship. Still, as NASA stands at a critical crossroads, casting about for a new mission, it is unlikely that Bush or any future president would pull the plug on a program that is still charting the farthest frontiers of the cosmos.

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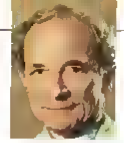
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'The lovable Old Perfesser'

BY TRENT FRAYNE

Casey Stengel's early prejudice reflected the times in baseball, but the attitude really hasn't altered all that much in 45 years

No one anywhere is remembered more fondly than Casey Stengel, not in the hall-world of sports anyway, for he was funny and a master of long-winded non sequiturs and adroit mala propisms that enchanted baseball scribes and baseball fans alike

It was Casey who as the manager of tha New York Yankees sidled up to reserve outfielder Bob Cerv one day and said quietly, "Nobody knows this, but one of us has just been traded to Kansas City." It was Casey who said, following 10 American League pennants in his 12 years as the ranking thinker in the Yankee dugout, "I couldna done it without the players."

And it was Casey who, in 1958 in Washington, upon being directed by Senator Estes Kefauver at a hearing to exempt baseball from antitrust laws "to give us very briefly your background,' replied "I had many years that I was not so successful as a player, as it is a game of skill And then I was no doubt discharged by baseball in which I had to go back to the minor leagues as a manager, and after being in the minor leagues as a manager I became a major-league manager in several cities and was discharged—we call it discharged, because there is no question I had to leave."

Casey charmed the excitable denizens of New York all through the 1950s, when the Yankees hardly ever misplaced the pennant. He was in his 60s then, frequently described as "the lovable Old Perfesser." In his 70s he was particularly revered during nearly four seasons when he managed the fledgling New York Mets, a team so endearingly bad as to inspire a book by Jimmy Breslin whose title quoted Casey, *Can't Anybody Here Play This Game?*

In light of all this, the thing that happened when I, an old baseball fan and hopeless admirer of Casey Stengel, sat down with a new book called *The Gospel According to Casey*, was astonishment that he was a racist.

Maybe it was simply the times Back in the 1950s, minorities were hopelessly denigrated, especially in baseball, which for generations had observed a color line that barred black players from the organized leagues both the majors and the deepest minors

The articulate and beetle-browed Branch Rickey, who ran the Brooklyn Dodgers, broke that color line in 1946 by inserting Jackie Robinson into the lineup of Brooklyn's No 1 farm team, the Montreal Royals I remember being in Montreal's old Delormier stadium three years later, working for the Toronto *Telegram* covering Toronto's all-white Maple Leafs against the Royals who by then had three or four black Brooklyn farmhands

I recall a conversation with a white Montreal outfielder recently traded by Toronto to the Royals He gave me a sly grin and said, 'You should get yourselves one of these jungle bunnies They bring you luck."

In this new book, largely a Stengel panegyric there's a chapter called "Casey on Race" in which the authors, Ira Berkow of *The New York Times* and former *Sports Illustrated* staffer Jim Kaplan write that "Casey was 56 when Jackie Robinson made his major-league debut in 1947, and he carried the racial baggage of many whites born in the 19th century He used all the vicious code words and his reluctance to integrate the Yankees until 1955—reinforced by team executives George Weiss, Del Webb and Dan Topping—probably weakened the entire American League."

The book quotes Roy Campanella Jr , whose father was a first-rate Dodgers catcher "Casey Stengel is so beloved that it may surprise some people that he was particularly insulting to blacks, he was a racist who used the word nigger as if he thought it were appropriate."

Still the authors say that "any glib generalization about Casey's racial attitudes clashes with his actual treatment of black players." Also there's a long quote from Elston Howard, the first black Yankee player, who joined the team in 1955 and accordingly spent six seasons under Stengel. "I never felt any prejudice around Casey He always bragged about me. I never saw any signs of bigotry In Kansas City and Chicago they wouldn't serve me in the restaurants until Stengel raised hell Stengel told the hotel, 'We came as a ball club and Elston Howard is part of the ball club If he can't be accommodated, we'll leave.'"

And in Robert Creamer's biography of half a dozen years ago, *Stengel: His Life and Times*, there were indications that knowing Elston Howard, who had spent the 1954 season in Toronto, altered Stengel's thinking "When Jim Brown the famous Cleveland Browns running back, was dominating professional football, someone asked Stengel if he thought Brown would make a good baseball player 'Why wouldn't he?' Stengel demanded 'He's big and strong and a good athlete I'd like to sign that big, black—' He stopped abruptly, his racial sensitivities obviously heightened since Howard's rookie days. 'Goddammit, there may be too many of them but give me an all-star team of them and let me manage.'"

If Casey's early prejudice was typical of the times in baseball, the attitude really hasn't altered all that much in the 45 years since Jackie Robinson advanced from Montreal to Brooklyn and became one of the game's great performers Black players abound, of course, but owners exhibit a broad reluctance to give them managerial positions There has been only one black general manager in the majors, Bill Lucas, briefly, 13 years ago at Atlanta, and in 45 years there have been only five black field managers Currently Cito Gaston in Toronto and Hal McRae in Kansas City lead the Blue Jays and the Royals Fired in the past were Frank Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles, Larry Doby of the Chicago White Sox and Maury Wills of the Seattle Mariners

In recent years, baseball commissioner Fay Vincent has publicly urged club owners to give black candidates a better hearing when replacing their managers, but he has been addressing deaf ears Of 16 teams replacing dugout gemuses since the start of the 1991 season, only one McRae at Kansas City, has been duly knighted

When Al Campanis was the general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers a couple of years ago, he was asked on a national television show about the shortage of black managers (he was subsequently fired) "They don't have the necessities" Campanis replied Even the lovable Old Perfesser could hardly have said it worse.

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CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

Lévesque: magic and a little madness

SHOW BUSINESS

All the right moves

Montreal's circus school is world renowned

André Simard's class begins promptly on weekday mornings at 9, as in any normal school. By almost every other measure, however, the instruction is extraordinary. The classroom is a huge cavern inside a converted railway station in downtown Montreal, and Simard's teaching method appears to consist largely of hauling furiously on ropes and pulleys while barking advice through his long, shaggy beard. His students are also unusual. They include youngsters like Xavier Lamoureux, a muscular 15-year-old with a dyed blond forelock who, on one recent morning, was hurtling through the air 32 feet above the floor on a wildly rushing trapeze. By his side, Marie-Josée Lévesque, 21, swung slowly on a more sedate trapeze, balanced on her head. And several feet below, 18-year-old Jennifer Telliet and Robert Bourgeois, 24, were fluidly entwined as they slid across a thin ribbon of steel. "They are all mad, of course," said Simard, a 47-year-old former Olympic high-bar gymnast, as the class drew to a close. "But you have to be a little mad to want to study in this place."

Simard's version of a classroom is L'Ecole Nationale de Cirque, the National Circus School. For the past 12 years, the singular Montreal institution has been capturing the imagination of young people seduced by the age-old desire to run away and join the circus. It has given hundreds of hopefuls an authentic taste of circus life and helped to transform the talented few into fully fledged—and gainfully employed—circus artists. Without the National Circus School, Montreal's acclaimed Cirque du Soleil, which opened a new season last week, would not have grown from a humble troupe of street performers into an internationally celebrated enterprise (page 53).

The National Circus School is, in many ways, unique. Unlike the majority of circus schools in the world, which are owned and operated by professional circus companies, the National is completely autonomous. It is a private nonprofit corporation funded by a combination of tuition fees and subsidies from the governments of both Quebec and Canada. There are no other institutions of the kind in North America offering both full-time training in the circus arts and a comprehensive high-school and junior-college academic program which, in the National's case, is licensed and supervised by Quebec's educational authorities. Ten teachers and five administrators make up the staff.

The student body is divided into three categories. There are now 26 adults and six younger people, aged 9 to 16, enrolled in the full-time professional program. Another 15 students, mostly children, attend initiation classes three times a week. Finally, 125 youngsters and between 40 to 60 adults show up for weekly sessions specifically designed for people who, as Achard said, "want to learn a little about the circus just for the sheer fun of it all."

It is the professional program, however, that is the National School's main focus. Each of the 32 students now in the program appears to have been terminally afflicted by circus madness. Each pays $1,600 annually to participate in 35 to 40 weeks of gruelling, individually tailored instruction aimed at turning out an accomplished circus performer eventually capable of gaining employment in a professional circus company. Those determined young hopefuls can be found in the morning at Dalhousie Station working on fundamentals in the school's gymnasium, on makeup and costumes in the wardrobe room, studying in the basement or developing routines in the enormous 71½-foot-high classroom they call the *chapiteau*—the big top.

Jennifer Telliet hauled herself from the gymnasium's "crash pit," filled with 12,150 yellow foam cubes, to explain the reasons that persuade a freckle-faced 18 year-old to submit to the daily punishing grind. "Sure it's tough sometimes," said the Montreal native, a student at the school for the past two years, "but I've always been a kind of hyperactive kid. And from the moment I saw my first circus, I just knew deep down that it was a world that I badly wanted to belong to."

Many students have been drawn by the National's growing international renown. The school has always been a training facility for the Cirque du Soleil, particularly in the early years when it was partly funded by the professional organization. But it has also won its own place in the world. For the past four years, all of the National's entrants in competition at the Paris-based Festival of the Circus of Tomorrow, an annual event open to both professionals and circus students under 25, have won medals.

In Paris, last January, the school produced bronze medallist Jeannot Painchaud, a trick cyclist from the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, and two silver medallists: Swiss-born trapeze soloist Titoune and Magdalens acrobatic trio Damien Boudreault, Robert Boudreau and Jeannot Chasson. That kind of success on the world stage has resulted in invitations for the school to participate in performances next year in locations as diverse as Verona, Italy, and Wuhan, China. It is also reflected in the fact that seven of the 32 students enrolled in the current professional program are from outside Canada—four from France, two from the United States and one from Switzerland. There are likely to be more in the future: of the 83 applications that the school has received for the 12 places available in the professional program next year, no fewer than 81 are from foreigners.

Shana Carroll, 21, of San Francisco, hopes to be one of the lucky dozen. She is currently enrolled in a basic introductory program at the National, after arriving unannounced on the school's doorstep last September only to find that there was no space for her. She had been performing as a trapeze artist at San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus, a small, politically oriented troupe, but decided that she needed advanced instruction. She said that she went to Montreal for two reasons. "The National is the only school in North America, and maybe one of the few schools anywhere else in the world, that still focuses on the circus as an art form rather than all the tired old stuff you get in places like Ringling and Barnum and Bailey," said Carroll, taking a break from a choreography lesson on the floor of the *chapiteau*. The other motivating factor was teacher André Simard. "He's the best," she said. "In terms of trapeze, there's simply no one better."

Simard dismisses praise with a shrug, but in fact, he is one of the National's prime assets. After competing, unsuccessfully, in the 1972 Munich Olympics, he went on to coach the Canadian national gymnastic team for seven years before joining the staff of the Montreal school in 1988. While fond of describing himself as "nothing but a technician," he is responsible for helping to implement one of the school's abiding principles. "I'm basically a guide rather than a teacher," he said. "I try to help each of these kids see where their particular strengths and weaknesses lie so they can go on to develop their own distinctive style and technique." He added: "If they get it right, if they can make the impossible look easy, then it's nothing short of magic." Magic, and maybe just a little mad, too.

BARRY CAME *in Montreal*



CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

Scene from Cirque du Soleil's Saltimbanco: mystery

THE CIRCUS OF DREAMS

Saltimbanco is the title of the Cirque du Soleil's new show, which opened on April 23 in Montreal. And like the travelling player in the Italian theatrical tradition who inspired the name, the most recent creation of the renowned Quebec troupe is part tumbling acrobat, part enigmatic wizard. A year in the making, the $2-million production assembles a cast of 38 artists from 10 countries. Their performances, in keeping with the unique style that has rocketed the Cirque to world acclaim in less than a decade, are suitably death-defying and awe-inspiring. But the flavor of the new show is entirely different. The pace is slower, more cerebral, as if, in the words of theatrical director Franco Dragone, "it were done with a scalpel instead of knife." And it unfolds within a high-tech, multicolored setting that creates a pervasive, faintly eerie sense of mystery.

The tone becomes clear from the opening, when a saltimbanco slowly emerges out of misty half-light. He carries a magical throne and chants a strange language. The musical score, written by René Dupéré and performed by a five-member rock band as well as opera-trained singer Francine Poitras, is both modern and baroque, adding to the overall unsettling effect. Gradually, the light rises to reveal a futuristic cityscape. As the show unfolds under a tent in Montreal's Old Port district, it explores the theme of urban life with rising intensity and varying degrees of success.

The most thrilling performers include German-born clown René Bazinet, who favors modernistic mime over the traditional red nose and oversized shoes. Also impressive are Chinese tightrope walker Sun Hongli, who performs hair-raising stunts on a double wire; the Russian Tchelnokov family (mother, father and six-year-old Anton) of contortionists; and 17-year-old Quebec twins Keryne and Sarah Steben, who work the flying high trapeze with youthful enthusiasm.

Saltimbanco is the third entirely new show that the Cirque has created during the past eight years. But Canadian audiences outside Quebec will have to wait until next year to see it: after shutting down in Montreal late in May and travelling to Quebec City for a brief stay, the show is moving to California for the rest of the summer. In 1993, it goes to New York City, Toronto, Chicago, Boston, Washington and Atlanta. It is just one of four productions that the Cirque will be presenting in the next year. The others are scheduled for Japan, Switzerland—and Las Vegas, where a permanent new facility will be constructed in that city's Mirage Hotel. That seems a suitable location for a company that specializes in the circus of dreams.

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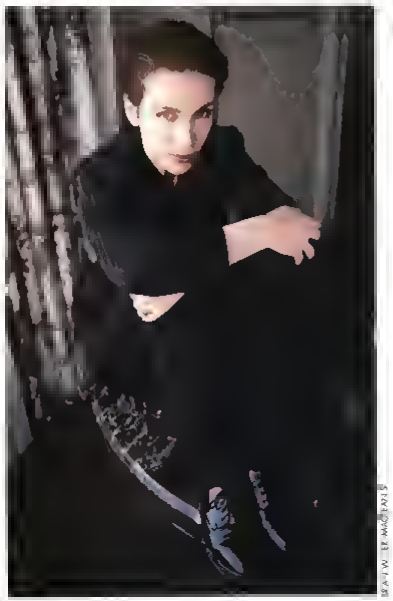
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Melancholy baby

Annie Lennox sings of loss and rebirth

Her features looking long and sad, Annie Lennox sits before a mirror and trails a makeup brush across her eyebrows. She sweeps it slowly around her face in a disconsolate caress, flirting with narcissism. Then she gets serious, painting on mascara and coral eyeshadow in generous strokes. Soon, Lennox is transformed into a parody of a sullenly seductive show girl, wearing black gloves, whorled jewelry and a towering red headdress of feathered boas. A diva on a divan, she gazes into the camera, her face immobile, while the sound track plays a lovely, aching lament. The scene is the video for *Why*, the first single from *Diva*, Lennox's arresting new solo album. The record marks a remarkable rebirth after the dissolution of her highly successful band, Eurythmics. Rich with melancholy and redemption, *Diva* is the most intimate work of Lennox's career. And although it lacks the rock 'n' roll punch of Eurythmics, it is already the number 1 album in England.



Lennox: decrying the counterfeit quality of stardom

After a spell of semi-retirement, in which she gave birth to daughter Lola, now 16 months old, Lennox is making herself famous again—but with a distinct ambivalence. The songs on *Diva*, and on the 30-minute video released along with the album, are riddled with ironic reflections on the counterfeit quality of stardom. And during a *Maclean's* interview in Toronto last week, the 37-year-old singer expressed reservations about stepping back into the spotlight. "I'm not the ambitious blonde," she said, speaking in the soft Aberdeen brogue of her Scottish birthplace. 'Maybe that's my dilemma with this whole affair. I don't want to *live* the predictable route of the star. And I sit rather uncomfortably with it, quite frankly."

Lennox was severely dressed in a pin-striped suit, "a power suit," as she laughingly described it. Her short dark hair was slicked back. A wide mouth and wide blue-grey eyes give her narrow face unusual proportions. Slim, angular and dapper, she is like a full-lipped, female David Bowie. In fact, Lennox and Bowie performed a scorching duet onstage together in London last month at the AIDS benefit concert in memory of Freddie Mercury, of the band Queen.

And, like Bowie, Lennox has established herself as a chameleon pop star, bending images of gender and bringing theatrical sophistication to the art of the pop-music video. In 1984, she appeared at the Grammy awards dressed in Elvis Presley drag, complete with sideburns, to sing her first big hit, *Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)*. Since then, she has subverted stereotypes at every turn, acquiring and shedding styles, from the spiky blonde in black leather who snarled *Missionary Man* (1986) to the sad-eyed carnival queen who masks and unmasks emotions in the new *Diva* video. "I push the limits," said Lennox. "I don't think I should be limited to wearing the current fashion or trend as an entertainer."

But unlike some of her image-obsessed peers, notably Madonna, Lennox is above all an exceptional singer. Her voice is a serene in-



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strument of white soul—bold, sensual and free-spirited, with a clear ring of intelligence. Against the hard pulse of Eurythmics, however, her singing often seemed armored with stainless-steel rage. On *Diva* Lennox strips away the anger and finds shivering depths of emotion. "I don't think you know what I feel," she sings in *Why*, repeating the line with heartbreaking passion.

The only child of an Aberdeen shipyard worker and his wife, Lennox now lives in London with her daughter and her second husband, documentary film-maker Uri Fruchtman, whom she married in 1988. But her most formative relationship was with musician Dave Stewart, whom she met in the late 1970s after abandoning studies at the Royal Academy of Music. After a four-year romance, they settled into a productive collaboration with Eurythmics that produced eight albums.

Their partnership finally wore itself out. Lennox told *Maclean's*: "It's just that we had been together for such a long time," she said. "It became hard for us to be in the same room together. We left at the right moment. It wasn't even discussed. We finished off the tour that we did for *We Two Are One* [1989], and I went home. There was no plan, and no plan to have plans. Suddenly I had a big white space in front of me. I could do anything."

She says that she considered giving up music altogether. "But when I was pregnant, I had a lot of time to fill," she recalled. "And I just discovered that there was this *itch*, because I wasn't writing. I thought perhaps this is what I'm supposed to do. I don't know *why*—why one sings, why one does anything."

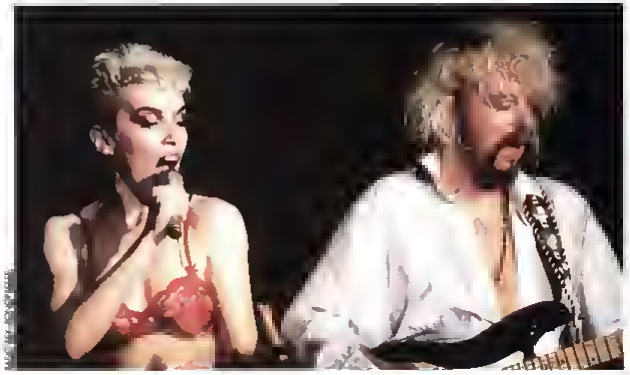
She recorded her new album over a 15-month period with British producer Stephen Lipson. "I didn't have a band," explained Lennox, "so I worked in this very solitary fashion. When I'm sitting at a piano, writing without a rhythm behind me, it tends to fall into that more introverted, melancholic mood." She added: "I'm a melancholic person. I carry a lot of it with me wherever I go." But Lennox calls *Diva* "less embittered" than her previous work. "Perhaps it's more feminine. Perhaps this experience of having children puts us back to a place where green shoots can emerge."

The songs on *Diva* revolve around themes of separation, loneliness and rebirth. The bright, jangly rhythm of *Walking on Broken Glass*, one of the album's few up-tempo numbers, is undercut by lines about "living in an empty room/With all the windows smashed." *Precious*, which swings on a bass-driven bayou beat, slams the door on a "cynical and twisted" past to embrace the miracle of a child—"Precious little angel/Tell me how can it be true/That such a gift from heaven/Has been sent for me and you." In *Cold*, a shimmering ballad, she offers the confession, "Dying is easy, it's living that scares me to death."

Meanwhile, the seven-song *Diva* video, directed by Lennox's closest friend, Sophie Muller, unfolds like a tragicomic masquerade in the canals, squares and mirrored halls of Venice. For *Legend in My Living Room*, Lennox wears top hat and tails, and stamps out the rhythm with a cane. For *Money Can't Buy It*, she wears a red gown and white-towel turban and sings cheek-to-cheek with her mirror image, her gaze slyly shifting between the camera and herself. And for *The Gift* ("Take this gilded cage of pain and set me free"), she wears her diva headdress and stands like a statue with arms outspread in St. Mark's square while tourists pose nearby for snapshots.

It is her sardonic comment on fame. Stardom, she told *Maclean's*, "is a worthless thing, really. Maybe after I finish my very last record, I will go and do a thesis on it—because I've lived it." She added: "Is that David Bowie who wrote in one of his songs 'I stumbled into town just like some sacred cow?' Well, I'm this odd sort of sacred cow. It's very difficult for people I meet to see me as"—she dropped her voice an octave and cracked a conspiratorial smile—"*hey*, just a regular guy."

BRIAN D. JOHNSON



Lennox, Stewart in concert: her singing seemed armored with stainless-steel rage

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JOSEPH LEDERER

Lahti (left), Tilley: a weathered waitress and a young wife hit the road

FILMS

Flight to freedom

Two women search for fulfilment in Alaska

LEAVING NORMAL
Directed by Edward Zwick

Superficially, *Leaving Normal* bears a striking resemblance to *Thelma and Louise* last summer's groundbreaking feminist road movie that earned Oscar nominations for Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis. It, too, is a comic drama about a weathered waitress and an ingenuous young wife who go looking for freedom in a convertible. Christine Lahti plays the Sarandon character, a jaded waitress named Darly whose past contains a disturbing secret. Meg Tilly takes on the Davis role as Marianne, a romantic airhead with two marriages behind her. Like Thelma and Louise, *Leaving Normal*'s heroines drink from the bottle and humiliate a mysogynist trucker. Darly knees a sexually abusive bar patron in the groin and empties an ashtray onto his head. But no one gets killed, nothing gets blown up and no one has sex. *Leaving Normal* follows a winding back road of wacky humor and heartwarming whimsy. But it all seems too cute and contrived—which is a shame, because the performances are charged with improvisational energy.

Leaving Normal is about improvisation. It unfolds as a fateful accumulation of happenstance. Darly quits her job as a cocktail waitress and runs into a tearful Marianne, who has just left her new husband. Together, they leave the fictional town of Normal, Wyo., and head north to Alaska, where Darly has inherited a small plot of land near the fictional outpost of Eternity Bluff. They choose their route by flipping coins and drawing straws. By necessity, they cruise through Canada.

On the road, Darly swindles the porky trucker (Maury Chaykin) out of $100, while Marianne dreams of romance with his slim companion, Harry (Lenny Von Dohlen), a sensitive poet who reads Steinbeck and weeps. Briefly, the two women join forces with a waitress named Cece (Patrika Darbo), an overweight object of ridicule. Cece has an unshakable faith in her romantic prospects, which seems ludicrous—until a wealthy Canadian rolls up to their campsite in a white limousine and whisks her to the altar. Darly and Marianne watch dumbfounded. "Off to perpetuate the species, I guess," says Marianne. "Off to create some oddly proportioned Canadians," adds Darly.

When Darly and Marianne finally reach their Alaskan homestead, Darly is completely shattered to find it much more primitive than she had expected. Marianne looks on the bright side, as always, and merrily adopts a couple of charming Inuit boys who are squatting on her land. Now that Hollywood has rediscovered Indians, Eskimos seem to be next in line.

Leaving Normal echoes America's bemused fascination with the rustic North, as reflected by the popularity of the quirky CBS series about small-town Alaska, *Northern Exposure*. From its opening shot, an *E.T.*-like image of a car streaking through the heavens, the movie portrays the North as a frontier of cosmic possibilities. The mountain scenery is immaculate, unscarred by logging. And a gaudy display of northern lights completes the *When You Wish upon a Star* sense of wonder.

But the northern lights look patently artificial, and are in fact a Hollywood special effect. Most of the "Alaskan" scenery belongs to British Columbia. And, more significantly, the drama seems unauthentic. Film-maker Edward Zwick, who helped create TV's *thirtysomething* and made the American Civil War epic *Glory* (1990), directs with a heavy hand. And he telegraphs his intentions with an insufferably buoyant musical score.

Within the artifice of *Leaving Normal* are two intriguing performances. Tilly conveys childlike immaturity with alarming conviction. And Lahti acts with impressive force. But they are poorly served by screenwriter Edward Solomon, who co-wrote the adolescent comedy *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. His Alaskan adventure is a party pack of hopped-up farce and fizzy sentiment. And in the end, *Leaving Normal* is a road movie that travels thousands of miles without ever leaving Hollywood.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Maclean's

BEST-SELLER LIST

FICTION

1 **"F" Is for Innocent,** *Crafton (1)*
2 **The Pelican Brief,** *Grisham (4)*
3 **All Around the Town,** *Clark (3)*
4 **Kissing the Gunner's Daughter,** *Rendell*
5 **Burden of Desire,** *MacNeil (2)*
6 **Griffin & Sabine,** *Bantock (5)*
7 **Jazz,** *Morrison (9)*
8 **The Elf Queen of Shannara,** *Brooks (8)*
9 **Probe,** *Bonanno (7)*
10 **Voice-over,** *Corbeil (6)*

NONFICTION

1 **Wisdom of the Elders,** *Knudtson and Suzuki (3)*
2 **Revolution from Within,** *Steinem (1)*
3 **A Return to Love,** *Williamson (6)*
4 **Stolen Continents,** *Wright (7)*
5 **Popcorn Report,** *Popcorn (4)*
6 **Wealth Without Risk for Canadians,** *Givens (8)*
7 **Mila,** *Armstrong*
8 **Backlash,** *Faludi (2)*
9 **Po Bell,** *Surtees*
10 **The Sign and the Seal,** *Hancock (5)*

( ) Position last week

Compiled by Brian Bethune

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COLUMN



The confidence men missed the car lot

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

The one thing that makes people nervous is the suspicion that the government is doing something (that's all the time) that we are not aware of. The one thing that makes governments nervous is that we are suspicious because we think we know what they're up to.

This is the current situation, a most intriguing one, with the spectacular debacle concerning the Reichmann brothers and their Olympia & York empire. Nervous and secretive politicians are mumbling about "keeping an eye" on the crashing scene, as pinstripe bankers rush about in circles, bumping into one another in their desperation not to have to share the blame for their greed and avarice.

What we know, of course, is that our elected representatives are trying to find some way to save the Reichmann brothers from their own folly: for fear the dollar will fall, confidence in Canada will founder and the end of Bay Street as we know it will come and there won't be martinis anymore at Winston's.

What is particularly intriguing in this transparent subterfuge, with no one telling the truth, is that the background whispering is going on between two governments that supposedly are sworn enemies. Nothing could be more different, even chalk and cheese, than the freebooting capitalists of the Mulroney government—the guys who gave us free trade and deregulation—and the sombre socialists of Bob Rae's NDP regime in Ontario.

Yet there they are, on the blower each day, Bank of Canada governor John Crow the referee, trying to find out a way to conceal from us the fact that they are going to use the taxpayer's dollar to rescue billionaires from their own stupidity.

The entire monetary system, as we know, not to mention the stock market, rests on confidence. Once the world's moneymen lose confidence in the solidity of the Canadian dollar, we are goners. Once investors decide that Time Warner is a badly run giant, the shares slide.

But all of this, as the Olympia & York disaster proves, is based on a myth: the confidence that bankers are smart people. They really are as dumb, on average, as a cross section of dentists or undertakers or whatever.

By giving the Reichmanns as much money as they ever wanted—without ever being granted a peek at the books—the brains who run our banks reveal not only their cupidity but their basic stupidity. No one would buy a used car without looking under the hood and kicking the tires, these guys were even too lazy to go to the car lot to see if the auto existed. The very same men who loaned so much money to the Third World that they could never recover it have proved they have short attention spans. How do they find their way to lunch?

Canadian bankers are accurately described as the Scottish Mafia, their acumen vastly overrated because they dress in six-piece suits and are good to their children. The only big bank not burned by the Olympia & York overweening ambitions was the Toronto-Dominion, the boss man of which is Dick Thomson, who is regarded as the smartest Canadian banker—and is not so modest as to dispute the description.

The old line is that if you owe the bank $10,000, you are in trouble. If you owe the bank $1 million, the bank is in trouble. In this case, it turns out that if you owe the banks $15 billion, the taxpayer is in trouble.

Don Mazankowski, the finance minister, is in real life a car dealer in Vegreville, Alta. Not in his wildest dreams when in business for himself would he gamble as wildly as the Reichmanns did. Sincere brothers who build good buildings, they bought up most of downtown Manhattan on the premise (even car dealers don't think like this) that real estate values were always going to go up—and never down.

Dear old Maz, an honest man over his head, is now whispering in the phone to Bob Rae, a brainy esthete who is so embarrassed at being involved in this rescue operation that his blushes match his new trendy neckties. The raging capitalists of Ottawa, who get their campaign funds from contented millionaires are now negotiating with Rae's Few Democrats—guardians of day care, toxic centres and single mothers—to find a way to bail out these reckless speculators.

The Reichmanns made a clutch of Toronto lawyers shamelessly rich by carrying on an endless (and eventually successful) libel-chill chivying of a magazine writer to prevent her doing a book on the family. Better they should have spent the time examining a map of London, where they are attempting to build a dream in the skies serviced by a subway that (if ever built) will not be finished until 1996.

They gambled, as does anyone who takes out a mortgage on his house in the expectation of being able to pay it off one day. Lots of people lose their houses, because they are fired because of incompetence, or economic climates change—as economic climates always do. Governments do not rush to their aid, as they are now trying to do for Olympia & York.

The free-market system is based on risk. If you are successful at the risk, as the gambling Reichmanns have been very successful up to now, you stand to make a fortune—while the rest of us pay taxes.

They goofed on the risk of Canary Wharf in London and the collapse of the real estate market in Manhattan and Toronto. Recessions come and recessions go. If the "free-enterprise" Conservatives in Ottawa connive with the "socialists" in Ontario to use tax money to rescue the gamblers, there should be riots in the streets.







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Which may be a good reason for Jill Wieder, mother of two, for owning a Volvo. Wieder is a member of a car pool where she says four out of five families drive Volvos.

Cecily Heavenridge is another person with a compelling argument for driving a Volvo. Two years ago, her husband Keith was in a serious accident in a Volvo and walked away. Since then, they've bought a new Volvo sedan and a wagon, which Cecily affectionately calls, "the tank."

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